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The mood is indigo again

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We will be on target, says minister

Inflation hits highest level for two years

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN'S determination to keep a tight grip on the economy was dealt a severe blow yesterday as inflation rose to 3.3 per cent, the highest level for nearly two years.

A high street spending spree, higher mortgage costs and a rise in petrol prices contributed to the sharp increase in the headline rate from 2.9 per cent, bursting through the Chancellor's target for the second month running.

The underlying rate, the Government's preferred measure which excludes mortgage interest payments, also rose above City forecasts, up from 2.7 per cent to 3 per cent.

The figures immediately raised speculation that the Bank of England might again come under pressure to raise interest rates, although ministers argued that they did not think this would be necessary. The bank is due to publish its quarterly inflation report today.

day in the wake of four interest rate rises since the general election.

Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, played down the figures, insisting that inflation would return to its target figure of 2.5 per cent within two months and without the need for a further interest rate rise.

The Bank's statement on August 7 said the perception is that interest rates have reached a level consistent with the inflation target, he said. "I hope very much that it will be their view tomorrow."

But the Tories seized on the figures, claiming that they were the direct result of Mr Brown's "botched Budget." Michael Fallon, the industry spokesman, said: "Labour's decision to jack up taxes — starting with a higher-than-expected rise in petrol duty — has fed straight through into higher prices."

No wonder the Bank of England raised interest rates

again last week. They knew that Gordon Brown's budget had injected extra inflationary pressure into the system.

Economic analysts said the rise should not have a big influence on interest rates, after the Bank's statement last week that the current levels were consistent with the inflation target.

The City also tried to play down the hike because most of the changes were due to seasonal food prices and the petrol price which rose by about 2.5p a litre in July in response to the increase in duty announced by Mr Brown.

But the inflation figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) were combined with separate data showing that high street sales were growing at their fastest rate for nine months. The value of retail sales jumped from 4.3 per cent in June to 5.2 per cent last month.

The ONS figures showed that motorist costs have risen by 1 per cent in a month compared with a 0.1 per cent rise last July, feeding through to a 0.4 per cent annual rise.

A 4.1 per cent rise in the mortgage interest element of the data, on the back of lending rate increases after the base rate hikes, helped drive up housing inflation by 1.1 per cent in the month, compared with 0.4 per cent last July.

Seasonal food prices, which fell 0.1 per cent in July 1996, only fell 2.9 per cent last month, feeding through to a 0.6 per cent rise over the year. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "Today's inflation news is very disappointing, especially as the big rise in the pound should have been helping to keep prices down."

Andrew Cates, an economist with Swiss Bank UBS, said the market would probably take some comfort from a fall in service inflation to 2.9 per cent from 3.2 per cent, as the service sector has been the motor of the current boom.

Petrol tax, page 23



Looking up: Prince William was eventually coaxed into glancing at the cameras after his shy start to yesterday's protocol at Balmoral

Princes' postcards from Balmoral

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND ALAN HAMILTON

FOR the first time since his honeymoon 16 years ago the Prince of Wales yesterday allowed photographers to breach the jealously guarded privacy of Balmoral as he, Prince William and Prince Harry posed for pictures on the first day of their summer holiday together.

Royal aides said the Princes hoped the experiment would encourage the media to leave them in peace for the rest of their week-long stay at Birkhall, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's lodge on the 54,000-acre estate near the village of Balmoral. The carrot of a further photo-shoot on Saturday was offered as an incentive to the paparazzi to behave.

The location was suitably distant from the last official photo-call in August 1981. The

Prince chose the Brig of Dee, a picturesque spot on the river towards the far western edge of the estate near Braemar, to show off his adoring young wife. The newlyweds had arrived on Doonbeg after a two-week honeymoon cruise to Gibraltar, Italy and the Greek islands, and appeared very much in love.



"It's blurred, I admit, but it looks like the Labrador might be kissing the Jack Russell"

Yesterday's event, master-minded by a relaxed but at times pen-sion-looking Prince, was staged 15 miles downstream at the opposite end of the estate. More than 40 invited journalists and photographers were met at Balmoral by members of the royal household and ferried five at a time in two Land Rovers about one mile into the estate.

The destination was a pebbled beach by the Dee bordered by pine woods, and next to a picturesque log cabin. Polver, often used by the Royal Family during fishing trips. Herded behind a rope cordon the jostling pack was told that on no account should any questions be asked.

But with royal pictures so

much in the news these past days there were inevitably questions to the Prince's staff. Was this a live broadcast of a deliberate "charm offensive" coming as it did so soon after Diana, Princess of Wales, had been pictured in apparent intimacy with her new companion, Dodi Al Fayed? The suggestion was angrily denied, as was the proposition that Camilla Parker Bowles

might be involved. "This is not a rumour," said a senior Palace spokesman. "The Prince and Princess of Wales are not getting into that sort of thing. What is, is a quiet and private life for his children. He does not want them to be part of this party."

Continued on page 2 col 3

Labour's Scottish crisis deepens

By FRANK KENNEDY AND ANDREW PURCE

THE Labour Party's problems over silence deepened last night after backbenchers demanded a widening of the investigation into the suicide of Gordon McMaster after two dramatic new twists.

The police have handed a report to the Procurator Fiscal, after a two-year investigation, into FCB Security, a Paisley-based company. The company, which had a contract with the local Labour council and two Labour councillors on its board, was accused by McMaster of being involved in laundering drug money.

The boss of McMaster was found in his home last night, having been shot in the head. He had been shot in the head and was found with a handgun in his hand.

security company and its alleged links with Labour councillors.

In a new development a jury cleared a man yesterday of shooting a gangster in Paisley last year after the defence claimed that the real killers included Billy Gillespie, a leading figure in FCB Security.

McMaster, 37, left a suicide note which blamed senior party colleagues for conducting a whispering campaign alleging he was a homosexual suffering from HIV.

Cricket anger

Angry scenes in which players punched each other and exchanged heated words marked the end of cricket's NatWest Trophy semi-final last night. Page 44

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Gulf campaigner dies at 30

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ONE of the leading campaigners for government action on Gulf War syndrome died yesterday after years of sickness. The death of Paul Carr, 30, a former member of the war for the Government to speed its promised action to tackle the mysterious illness.

Mr Carr, 30, served with the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers during Operation Desert Storm as an anti-tank vehicle driver investigating the remains of bombed Iraqi tanks. Even as he grew increasingly ill with a brain tumour, rheumatoid joints and liver problems, his greatest concern was for his two daughters.

They were both born with rare and dangerous heart disorders and he was convinced that he had passed to them something he had picked up in the desert.

Mr Carr, from Manchester, was a leading and outspoken member of the National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association. He was moved to St Anne's Hospice for the terminally ill in Manchester two weeks ago and fell into a coma over the weekend.

He always blamed his illness on the injections he received for Gulf War deployment, including vaccines against plague and anthrax, as well as NAPS tablets to

protect against possible chemical attack. He also came into close contact with the remains of Iraqi tanks that had been destroyed by shells tipped with depleted uranium.

Before he died he said that he believed that he had passed his sickness to his children. "As I see it, I have passed to the children what I picked up through the chemicals in the Gulf. I fought for my country, but I did not expect to be poisoned."

He added: "When Tanya was born with this defect I was sad, of course, but I did not make any connection with the Gulf. But when Adele had the

Continued on page 2 col 4

Jumbo stowaway wins second chance

By STEPHEN FARRELL

AN INDIAN stowaway who was refused asylum after surviving -60C temperatures hidden inside the undercarriage of a Jumbo jet was last night told his case would be reviewed.

Within hours of the refusal, Mike O'Brien, a Home Office Minister, said he would consider the "compassionate circumstances" of Pardeep Saini, who was found staggering about Heathrow Airport on October 12 last year.

Doctors described Mr Saini, 23, as a "medical miracle" and believe he survived by going

into a state of suspended animation during the ten-hour flight, during which his brother Vijay, 19, died after falling from the British Airways 747 when the undercarriage was lowered over Richmond, Surrey.

Mr Saini applied for asylum, claiming he had suffered persecution by Indian police who accused him of links with Sikh terrorists in his native Punjab. His lawyers told an immigration appeal hearing in June that he had been arrested twice, and beaten. However, his family learnt yesterday that his application had been rejected.

Cap's away for pilot hit by helicopter

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE pilot of a motorised glider had the cap knocked from his head by a helicopter rotor blade as they collided in mid-air yesterday.

Martin Hopfmüller, a retired Austrian music professor, escaped with a cut hand as he and the two-man helicopter crew made emergency landings after the accident in North Yorkshire. Later Mr Hopfmüller, 68, declined a lift to hospital in an RAF rescue helicopter, claiming he preferred the safety of an ambulance.

Mr Hopfmüller had been piloting his Catana DV 20 aircraft from Leeds to Rufforth Airfield on the outskirts of York. As he approached the landing strip he collided with a Twin Squirrel helicopter on a flight from Pocklington, in East Yorkshire, to Teesside. He said: "It was more than just a miracle escape. I was saved by my cloth cap. I was given clearance to land by York and started my descent. Suddenly I saw the helicopter above me in the right and two seconds later it hit me with a terrific strike. The rotor blade cracked me on the

perspex shield attached to my cloth cap which I always wear to fly in. The cap was knocked clean off. If I hadn't been wearing it I fear my head would have been cut clean off. I was saved."

Although his right hand was bleeding he kept control of the glider and landed in a field. The helicopter pilot, Philip Amadeus, and his co-pilot, Paul Morin, crashed landed in a corn field near by. Pilot killed: The pilot of a microlight aircraft was killed as he took off from Neithorpe Aerodrome near Worksop. He was a member of Sheffield Aero Club.



Hopfmüller: "more than just a miracle escape"

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Lawyers attack police bugging code

A DRAFT code of conduct allowing police to break in to homes or offices and bug suspects was published by the Home Office yesterday. It was immediately attacked by lawyers as a licence to spy on confidential meetings.

Earlier this year the Conservative Government passed the Police Act 1997, which legalised the use of police bugs and vehicle tracking devices to collect intelligence on those suspected of involvement in serious crimes.

Under the draft code, intrusive surveillance operations must be

Little other than the confessional will be off bounds in surveillance operations, reports Stewart Tendler

authorised by a chief constable or his deputy and reported to a group of commissioners who will be current or former high court judges. Police will require agreement from a commissioner if they want to bug a home, hotel bedroom or office. They will also need agreement if the operation would involve access to confidential legal, journalistic or personal material, including medical and spiritual counselling. The code includes an

undertaking from the police and Customs that they will not bug the confessional.

If the investigation is urgent police can go ahead, but must report and justify their action to a commissioner as soon as possible. The commissioner can order the police to abandon an operation.

Alun Michael, the Home Office Minister responsible for the police, said he expected that up to seven commissioners would be appointed,

including a chief commissioner. He would act as arbiter between police and commissioners and present a report to Parliament each year.

Last year chief constables and Customs officers carried out 2,550 secret operations involving bugs and tracking devices under ad hoc Home Office arrangements.

Mr Michael said: "The public needs to be protected from the nasty and dangerous people involved in high-level crime. But it is essential that police and Customs powers are subject to effective safeguards and independent scrutiny. We must ensure people's liberties are protected."

But the Law Society announced it would fight for changes in the code. Roger Ede, the secretary of the society's criminal law committee, said it had been hoped the code would clear up deficiencies in the Act but it had not. The police could

bug lawyer's offices without showing any reasonable suspicion that the conversations involved criminal matters. Police were being given *carte blanche* to break the lawyer's privileged position. There was no mention of any disciplinary action against police who breached the Act.

The Liberal Democrats also maintained that the safeguards do not go far enough. Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the party's home

affairs spokesman, said that bugging should be used as a last resort and where judicial authorisation had already been given.

Last night the Home Office said that a failure by a chief constable to comply with the criteria set out in the code was not a disciplinary matter. A commissioner would halt the intercept. Unauthorised bugging by junior officers would be subject to normal discipline.

Comments on the code must be received by the Home Office by September 30. The final draft must be approved by Parliament.

Railway cameras put more crooks in the frame

By LIN JENKINS

SURVEILLANCE around London's rail network completes a major refit this month, greatly improving the images recorded by cameras and making it easier to identify criminals from freeze-frames, even when lighting conditions are poor.

The network is the largest in Europe, with 1,800 cameras covering stations, approach roads, parking areas, platforms, ticket offices and shopping areas. New software enables images to be enhanced to sharpen the details.

The system had its inception in 1991 in response to the IRA bombing campaign in London, and was completed four years later. Sergeant David Cooper of the British Transport Police video unit said that new equipment would also allow officers to gather relevant recordings from a number of locations on one tape, without endless copying and editing.

"Within an hour of an incident being reported, we will have identified all the relevant tapes and be ready to start work," he said. "The system is designed so that if any point of the network should be damaged, this would not result in a loss of images to us. It would be extremely difficult to knock out the system."

Footage from the system has played a key role in the convictions of a number of criminals. Two brothers jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey last month for a "steaming" incident on a train to Deptford had been tracked through the system.

The London Underground also has a comprehensive camera system. A spokesman for British Transport Police said: "We do not stand still. The system is under constant review and we update it whenever technology provides something to enhance our surveillance."



The three Princes face the media on a pebbled beach by the Dee. A further Balmoral photo-call has been promised

Balmoral photo-call for Princes

Continued from page 1

the country by media intrusion.

Officials said that the event had been arranged last Thursday, before the pictures of Dodi and Di appeared. "It is something we have been looking at for some time, to see how we could work with the press to meet their needs and allow the children to have a private holiday with their father. It is an experiment. If this does not work, it will never happen again," Ms Henney said.

It appeared, however, to work. By the time the Princes emerged from the woods, just after 10am, accompanied by Prince William's black Labrador, Wigeon, and his father's Jack Russell, Tiger, the morning mist had lifted to be replaced by weak summer sunshine.

Wigeon was the first to appear, unselfconsciously snuffling among the pebbles. But as soon as she noticed the assembled media, she did an about-turn. There was no such retreat for the Prince of Wales in his kilt of Balmoral tartan as he strode out of the wood and on to the beach with a shepherd's crook, followed by his two sons.

At first both William and



The royal newlyweds in 1981 — 15 miles upstream

Harry, both in casual trousers and shirtsleeves, seemed disconcertingly fascinated by their feet as they gingerly picked their way over the pebbles and rocks to the

shoreline. The small party exchanged only a few words, and walked apart during the five-minute session. Harry skimmed a pebble over the water and occasionally ven-

tured a smile at the cameras.

But William, taking after his mother in her early days of fame, studiously ignored all pleas to look up. Instead he threw stones into the water for Wigeon, while his father leaned on his crook attempting to look as though he was out for a normal stroll.

Wigeon was the one who finally broke the ice. All three Princes broke out in smiles as she splashed like a puppy at the shoreline vainly searching for a pebble thrown by her master. The trio then stood rather stiffly in a line, smiling, before turning back to the wood and, they hoped, their private holiday. It was only then that William finally responded to a photographer's plea and glanced up through his eyelashes with a shy smile — the very image of his mother.

Afterwards the Prince's press secretary looked pleased. No one had shouted questions about Dodi, or about Camilla. The ladies and gentlemen of the press had behaved. But it may not last. Ian Lundy of the local North Scot press agency said yesterday: "If a story breaks about Diana or Camilla, there is no way we can ignore the fact that Charles is at Balmoral."

Explorer honoured for rescue of Arctic traveller

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE British explorer David Hempleman-Adams is to receive one of the country's highest honours for his part in saving the life of an Arctic adventurer.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, of Box, Wiltshire, and his fellow explorer, Rune Gjeldnes, of Norway, have been awarded Royal Humane Society bronze medals for their rescue of a lone Arctic traveller who had fallen through ice into the sea during a solo attempt on the North Pole.

In temperatures of -70C Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes cleared a 200-metre landing strip on ice that was in constant danger of breaking up, so that a plane could land to rescue Alan Bywaters, who was suffering from hypothermia and frostbite.

Mr Hempleman-Adams, a veteran of 29 major expeditions which have resulted in two friends losing their lives, wrote in his report to the society about the incident in March: "I have been in some major scrapes. However, I would count this rescue as the most hazardous or risky to my life that I have encountered."

The society's citation says Mr Bywaters had fallen through ice and had lost his survival equipment, radio, food, stove and fuel. He managed to get out of the sea and followed the tracks of the Hempleman-Adams team, who were trying to reach the North Pole without support, until he reached them.

After giving first aid Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes erected radio antennae to call for assistance. Then they cleared and marked a landing strip, guided the plane in and manhandled Mr Bywaters aboard in a sledge. Because of the strain the incident put on them and their equipment and food supplies, Mr Hempleman-Adams and Mr Gjeldnes then had to abandon their own expedition.

Consortiums compete for benefits system

The first step towards privatising part of the benefits system was announced yesterday. Three consortiums were given the go-ahead to "shadow" area directorates of the Benefits Agency for up to a year. If any of them can demonstrate ways to provide better value for money and improved service, it will be considered as a candidate to take over management of benefit offices.

The areas are London and Anglia, Yorkshire, and the West Country. The move follows a decision two weeks ago by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, to press ahead with the previous Government's plans to sell off the properties in which benefit offices are housed.

Brussels tax rejected

Plans to give the European Commission more say on alcohol and tobacco taxation have been attacked by the Government. Dawn Primarolo, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has told MPs in a memo that the Government's "significant" powers over revenue from alcohol and tobacco could be at stake. She insists that all 15 member states must be unanimous on any changes to decision-making on taxes.

Sinn Fein exclusion plea

Sinn Fein began legal action to challenge the exclusion of its two MPs from Westminster unless they swear allegiance to the Queen. Martin McGuinness, MP for Mid Ulster, filed papers with Northern Ireland's High Court seeking a judicial review of the requirement that he and Gerry Adams, MP for West Belfast, take the oath of allegiance before taking their seats.

Poteen pilgrimage

An Irish priest is trying to make poteen, the fiery alcoholic drink traditionally made from potatoes, into a legal tourist attraction. Canon Donal O'Driscoll believes that a poteen pilgrimage, taking visitors from one still to another on a route from Donegal to Connemara, Kerry and Cork, could bring illegal poteen-makers into the open and enable the authorities to regulate quality and manufacture.

Boys on burglary spree

Police say they are powerless to halt two boys aged 15 and 15 who are being blamed for a crime wave in Gosport, Hampshire. The boys, believed to have broken into 40 homes in five months, have been arrested 15 times in six weeks and charged with a number of offences, but because of their ages have not been remanded in custody. Police are advising residents to be vigilant.

Don't call me Master

Sue Wilks is challenging the traditional titles of degrees. Ms Wilks, 37, who is studying feminist history at Leeds University, wants to be awarded a Mistress of Arts degree. She says other female students should be allowed to study for Spinster of Arts degrees, rather than Bachelor of Arts. She is seeking legal advice to see if she can force Leeds University to recognise gender on all its degree courses.



Rare bird is mass killer

A population of one of the world's rarest seabirds, the great skua, killed and ate about 200,000 other seabirds, including kittiwakes, puffins, fulmars and Arctic terns, on the Shetland Islands last year, according to a study for Scottish Natural Heritage. The skuas' diet changed during a temporary shortage of sand eels, and they might now be culled to protect the other birds.

Constable country threat

Foreign tourists are threatening to destroy the landscape immortalised by Constable in *The Haywain* — Dedham Vale on the Essex-Suffolk border. In a special assessment of the area, the Countryside Commission warns of the damage mass tourism can do. Local people blame the British Tourist Authority's policy of enticing visitors away from London, and extended ferry services to Harwich.

Legion attacks Labour for war pensions volte-face

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR was accused by the Royal British Legion yesterday of breaking a pre-election pledge to war pensioners. The legion said that a Labour Government would review the system that allows local authorities to "penalise" veterans because of their war pension income.

Councils are legally obliged to disregard war pension income of at least £14 a week — but they can choose to ignore the entire amount — when assessing entitlement to housing

benefit and help with council tax bills. This discrepancy leaves pensioners in some areas significantly worse off than others. Fourteen councils, most of them Labour-controlled, disregard only the minimum £10, and a further 30 disregard less than the full amount.

In 1995, Eric Murtlew, then a Labour defence spokesman, said: "An incoming Labour Government would review this policy of disregard." However, the Department of Social Security now says there are no

plans for a review. John Aston, of the legion said: "We are disappointed and a lot of the people we represent, including people without war pensions, are very angry. It is something we won't let drop."

The 14 councils that ignore only the statutory £10 of war pension are: Chester-le-Street, Derwentside, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Newcastle upon Tyne, Sunderland, Eastham, Wear Valley, Gateshead, Redcar and Cleveland, Manchester, Liverpool, Oswestry and Norwich.

Gulf campaigner dies at 30

Continued from page 1

same condition I began to think that there was something going on."

Both daughters underwent operations, but will develop breathing problems in later life. As there was no history of heart problems in the family, doctors said it was extremely unusual for both girls to be born with the same problem.

Tony Flint, the association's regional organiser, said fellow ex-servicemen were devastated by Mr Carr's death. "Paul's death underlines the need for very urgent action. We are dying off at the rate of two a month. This Government is giving us more talk than the previous one, but still there is no action." The association be-



Carr: "a big voice"

lieves that there have been more than 100 deaths from Gulf War illness and thousands have suffered symptoms. The Government said

last month that it wanted a "new beginning" on the subject and promised £6.5 million to fund research.

Hilary Meredith, a Manchester-based solicitor acting for veterans, said that Mr Carr's death had hit his colleagues hard. "He was a very big voice in the association and spoke extensively to raise the public image of the case," she said.

"He is the twenty-seventh client to die since we started acting on this case and it has to stop now. The Government has to take this extremely seriously. Never mind all the investigations: just find some treatment fast before any more of our clients go the same way."

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Nun's kiss ruined Singing Vicar's charity fraud

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOGUS bishop who billed himself as The Singing Vicar and tricked the public out of at least £250,000 in charity donations was exposed when he was seen kissing one of his collectors.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that David Valentine appeared on stage in pubs along with "singing nuns". He employed designers and printers to create false authorisation badges, produced bogus labels for collecting tins, created sashes for female collectors to wear and regularly emptied full tins into a holdall and replaced the seals. The money, intended for genuine charities, was never seen again.

Valentine, 38, told the jury that his act was "a bit like you may have seen in the film *Sister Act* with Whoopi Goldberg. I wear a white robe and a bishop's hat and everyone in the audience sings along."

The court was told that the charities involved included Leukaemia Research, the Royal School for the Blind, Clatterbridge Hospital Cancer Research Trust, the Salvation Army and the Royal Liverpool Hospital Forger Me Not Cancer Appeal. Valentine also made money over a number of years from pub and street collections, jumble sales and charity shops.

Valentine, who posed as an ordained minister of various churches, had initially made a living singing in pubs and running a removals business. In the 1980s he became a street collector for the Salvation Army but was banned after complaints.

However, he still made col-



Valentine: he compared his show to *Sister Act*

lections which never reached their destination. Ten years ago he started a chain of charity shops across Merseyside, but most of the proceeds went into his own pockets.

During the five-week trial, David Boulton, for the prosecution, said that Valentine was arrested outside a pub in Birkenhead with "a fraudster's kit" in his car. Earlier that evening, he had been in the pub with his dog collar on when one of his collectors had come in. He had left and returned without the collar and the collector came back into the premises minus her charity sash and identification badge and joined him at the bar. The landlady demanded an explanation when they

were seen kissing, then rang the police.

Valentine, from Upton, Cheshire, who was jailed for four years, had denied three charges of conspiring to obtain donations by deception. But Judge John Morgan told him he had been convicted on overwhelming evidence. The judge said: "This was a long-term, well-organised, deliberate course of dishonesty. You used your former connections with a Toxteth church and with the Salvation Army to dress as a clergyman, adding credibility to your collections and your collectors. But you were not a genuine man of God collecting for good causes. You were a charlatan and fraud."

He said that perhaps the worst aspect of Valentine's behaviour was the effect it would undoubtedly have on the willingness of the public to give to genuine collectors.

"Not surprisingly they fear that their money may not be going to its proper destination and so are reluctant to give at all. Your conduct has made the task of genuine collectors that much more difficult and the scepticism of the public to grow when presented with a collecting box."

Ian Wilkinson, 40, of Wallasey, who was convicted of conspiring with Valentine and admitted a similar offence committed after Valentine's arrest in February 1995, was jailed for 15 months. Similar charges against Terence Bryant, 59, of Birkenhead, on which a jury could not decide, and Diane Mitchell, 41, of Birkenhead, were laid on the file. They had denied the charges.



Jill Wilson with her four-month-old baby Anthony: she was killed as she pushed his pram

Victims' family criticises driver, 86

By LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN of 86 who died at the wheel of her car, which went out of control and killed a young mother and critically injured a four-month-old baby, should never have been driving, the victims' family said yesterday.

David Wilson, whose sister-in-law Jill was killed as she pushed her baby's pram in Fleet, Hampshire, said: "It's terrible the motorist died, but what on earth was she doing behind the wheel at her age?"

Governments should introduce regular check-ups for drivers as soon as they reach a certain age and, if they don't come up to scratch, then their licences should be taken away.

Mrs Wilson's baby, Anthony, underwent brain surgery after Monday's accident. Yesterday he was in a stable condition in intensive care at the regional paediatric neurological centre at King's College Hospital. His father Ian Wilson was visiting him. The couple's two-year-old daughter Victoria saw her mother

die. Mrs Wilson, 84, was a driving instructor.

The car was driven by Winifred Fletcher, whose son Michael said: "On behalf of my mother's family, I would like to say that we are all deeply shocked. Our thoughts are with the victims."

Police said they would look at Mr Fletcher's medical history. At 70, motorists must be passed fit to drive by their doctor.

Medical Briefing, page 7

Dating agency says widow was Mrs Wrong

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A WIDOW who claims that she left a dating agency because it matched her with a string of unsuitable men was dropped by the agency because she pestered one of her suitors, a court was told yesterday.

Susan Constable, 39, is seeking a refund of her £370 membership fee from Initial Approach, which she left after complaining that she was introduced to "fat men, bald men and men who could not or dare not drive".

Yesterday Stirling Sheriff Court was told that Mrs Constable's membership had been terminated because of complaints from one of the partners found for her.

Mrs Constable, 39, who has since found a boyfriend without the help of a dating agency, launched a small claims action for a refund from Susan Menoni, head of the agency. She said at an earlier hearing that Initial Approach had sent her details of 14 men who were nearly all unsuitable. Having requested a local non-smoker who could take her for drives in the country, she said that she was offered a man who was too scared to drive, another who could hardly see, one who lived 200 miles away and several unrepentant smokers.

Tom Murray, for Initial Approach, told Sheriff Robert Younger yesterday: "Mrs Constable is saying her membership was cancelled when she made a complaint. Mrs Menoni is saying her membership was cancelled because her behaviour was in breach of the company's code of conduct."

He said that letters written by Mrs Constable to another client that she was dating had been in breach of the code of conduct. Sheriff Younger ruled that a full hearing would begin on September 29. Out-

side court Mrs Menoni, 47, said Mrs Constable had only started to complain after her relationship with another member had broken down. She said the Dunblane-based agency had a good record, with 22 weddings in four years and six in the pipeline.

She had refused to refund Mrs Constable's membership fee because of her inappropriate behaviour. "We received complaints of an extremely serious nature about her behaviour from the man whom she had hoped to marry," Mrs Menoni said. "Since her membership was terminated, Mrs Constable has waged a campaign against us in the form of phone calls and letters. In November of last year we were eventually forced to involve the police."

Mrs Constable, of Greenloaning, Perthshire and Kinross, was widowed when her husband, Peter, died of a brain tumour three years ago. Outside court yesterday, she denied behaving in a threatening manner and said she was crusading for others unhappy with the agency. "There is such a stigma attached to dating agencies that people with a grievance will not stand up for themselves."



Menoni: refused refund of membership fee

War crime defendant dies in hospital

By ADRIAN LEE

THE Surrey pensioner who became the first man to appear in a British court accused of Nazi war crimes has died in hospital of old age, his solicitor said yesterday.

Szymon Serafinowicz, 86, was accused of playing a leading role in the murders of 3,000 Jews on the Eastern front in the 1940s, and faced three specimen charges of murder. An Old Bailey jury decided in January that Mr Serafinowicz, of Banstead, Surrey, was mentally unfit to face murder charges, and the case against him collapsed. The abandoned trial was estimated to have cost £4 million.

Mr Serafinowicz, a retired carpenter, was suffering from Alzheimer's disease and had been in hospital for the past two months with heart problems and cancer. Ted Dancy, his solicitor, said: "He went to his grave sad that he didn't have the chance to prove his innocence, which he maintained until his last breath. He died last Thursday."

Mr Dancy said: "Since the court case he had lived a quiet existence at home. When I last saw him he was clearly not a well man — he was rambling — but he still felt angry at the way he had been treated. But he was a very strong man."

The jury's decision in the case cast doubt over future war crimes prosecutions in British courts. Opponents of the War Crimes Act — under which the prosecutions are brought — seized on the jury's decision as a persuasive argument that pursuing alleged war criminals from the Second World War era was a costly and futile exercise.

The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday that the cases of four other alleged war criminals living in England and Wales were still being considered for prosecution.

Shave was too close for cat

A PERSIAN cat taken to the vet for a routine shave for matted fur got a more extensive cut than it expected.

The eight-month kitten called Courtney, whose lilac fur meant its offspring could command prices of up to £200, was to be used for breeding by its owners, Leona Flynn-Hudson and her husband, Craig, of Wardley, Tyne and Wear.

When Mr Flynn-Hudson collected the kitten from the White Lion Veterinary Clinic, he was shocked to find that it

had been spayed. Mrs Flynn-Hudson said yesterday that she thought the vet could have misread "clip and shave" in the surgery diary for "clip and spay". Now she plans to sue the clinic.

"My husband was told she would have to be given tablets each day because of the operation. He said there must have been a mistake and asked if he had been handed the right cat. That is when the vet realised what had happened."

"When I found out I was

having kittens I was so mad. I couldn't believe the cat could have gone in for a shave and come out spayed. She looked so down when she came home. Craig and I were both very sad."

The couple have been offered £450 by the Veterinary Defence Society, an insurer which is handling the case, but their solicitor has turned down the offer. The society and the clinic, in South Hutton, Tyne and Wear, both declined to comment yesterday.

Britons forced out of top hotel

By HARVIA ELLIOTT
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 British holidaymakers were evacuated from a leading all-inclusive Jamaican beach resort yesterday after striking hotel workers forced its closure.

The five-star Renaissance Jamaica Grande near Ocho Rios is being picketed by hotel workers fighting for union recognition. Within 24 hours the hotel ran out of food and drink and had to cull in fleets of buses to take nearly 1,500 guests to other hotels.

The British holidaymakers were all clients of Airtrips and had paid £1,550 each for the two-week holiday. Airtrips representatives in Jamaica have found alternative accommodation in more expensive properties but some guests have been forced to stay in smaller hotels.

"We had no warning of the strike at all until the staff walked out on Sunday," an Airtrips spokesman said.

The strike started after the hotel, owned largely by Marriott Hotels, refused to allow the staff a poll to elect union representatives. They were ordered by the Jamaica Supreme Court to recognise the union but apparently ignored it.

Vince Morrison, the union's local supervisor, said: "Workers are fed up with the working conditions and are prepared to go all the way, regardless of the consequences."



Odd, but true. Mars bars were the only chocolate bars sent out to British troops in World War Two. Top tactics from our man Churchill

Mars

1932 Sixty-five years of Mars 1997

Grammar tests too tough for teachers

By DAVID CHARTER

COMPULSORY English grammar tests for 14-year-olds have been cancelled next year after teachers said they did not know how to teach sentence construction.

This summer's trial of the 50-minute exam, planned for all schools next year, was taken up by only a quarter of secondaries. Protests from many English teachers about the difficulty of teaching subordinate clauses and adverbial phrases has convinced the Government to excuse most schools, although 100 will be chosen to try out a modified paper.

A spokeswoman for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said yesterday: "We are extending the pilot tests for another year in grammar, spelling and punctuation, to fine-tune them based on feedback from teachers."

Top professions prefer 'Ivy League' graduates

Students told to study universities' job prospects, reports David Charter

AN IVY League of traditional universities is favoured by high-earning professions seeking to recruit the brightest graduates, according to a survey of employers. Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol Universities provide most recruits for firms of solicitors, barristers, merchant bankers, accountants and actuaries.

The findings come as it emerged that none of the top three universities have places left for October in clearing, the annual scramble by candidates who miss their target grades for vacant courses, which begins tomorrow once the A-level results come out. There will be some places available at the next most successful universities identified by professional companies: Durham, Manchester, King's College London, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The survey, by the MPW group of independent sixth-form colleges, is a warning to thousands of students expected to join clearing to escape the Government's introduc-

tion of annual £1,000 university course fees next year.

Joe Ruston, of MPW, said: "There are signals this year that you should try to save the cost of course fees by going to any university, but if it does not confer much in the way of job prospects, it is going to look like a false saving in the long run. I do not think the hysterical comments about rushing into university this year are very sophisticated. We are talking about people's income over a long period." Research into universities' gra-

duate employment prospects would pay dividends, he said.

Several former polytechnics made their mark in the survey, led by the University of the West of England, at 39th with 12 graduates at the top firms. London Guildhall, Oxford Brookes and Anglia Polytechnic University shared 47th place ahead of some traditional universities with eight recruits apiece.

The findings confirm the conclusion of *Great Expectations*, an analysis of the experiences and expectations of

more than 5,000 final year students at 21 institutions published earlier this year. It found that the growing number of graduates seemed to be convincing employers to concentrate on a narrower, not wider, range of institutions.

Many school-leavers are ignorant of the financial demands that will be made on them at university, a NatWest Bank survey showed yesterday. They are also becoming increasingly tolerant about the prospect of being in debt, with half of those surveyed agreeing that debt is just part of student lifestyle.

The survey of pupils from 50 secondary schools showed that 61 per cent of sixth formers believed they would not have to borrow money at university, although at least 74 per cent of undergraduates are in debt.

Daily listings of degree-course vacancies start in *The Times* tomorrow with a comprehensive 16-page guide to clearing.

WHERE FIRMS FIND TALENT

Graduates recruited in the past three years by leading firms of solicitors, barristers, merchant bankers, accountants and actuaries

Oxford	78	Warwick	48
Cambridge	75	Leeds	46
Bristol	55	Southampton	46
Durham	54	Edinburgh	42
Manchester	54	Sheffield	40
King's College	53	UCL	38
Birmingham	50	Cardiff	33
Nottingham	50	York	32
Exeter	49	City	30
LSE	49	Newcastle	30



Kevin Artt and his girlfriend Erin Riley after the extradition hearing yesterday

America sends back Maze trio

A JUDGE in San Francisco yesterday ruled that three men who had escaped from a prison in Northern Ireland would not be punished for their political views if returned to British custody and ordered them to be extradited to Britain. Kevin Artt, Pol

Brennan and Terence Kirby, all alleged members of the IRA who escaped from Northern Ireland's Maze prison in 1983, were arrested in California between 1992 and 1994. Artt and Kirby were convicted of murder, and Brennan on explosives charges. In his writ-

ten ruling, District Judge Charles Legge said: "Respondents were convicted because they committed serious crimes, not because they are Catholics or Nationalists. A killing is still a crime, regardless of the banner under which the criminal stands."

Trinity students lobby for return of Home Rule

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AS SINN FEIN prepares for political battle in pursuit of its goal of a united Ireland, a group of Roman Catholic students in the Irish Republic are struggling for reunification with Britain and a return to Home Rule.

During freshers' week the Independent Unionist Association at Trinity College Dublin will erect a stand calling on people to join their cause. David Christopher, 19, a history student, has founded the movement of Irish people — most of them Catholic — who would prefer to be British. "I do not subscribe to the concept that Irishness and Britishness are mutually exclusive," he said. "I would think that they are mutually inclusive as we share the same language, history and culture. We are a natural political unit."

The association, which has ten members, wants an end to what it sees as the failed Irish State, born in 1922 out of a nationalist struggle to force Britain from Ireland. Mr Christopher, who comes from a non-Unionist background in Galway, refers to Britain as the "mainland" — a term that is anathema to most Irish Catholics. He said that he had more in common with Britain as he watched English tele-

vision and read English papers and was proud to be called a "West Brit".

While reunification with Britain is a long-term goal, his organisation wants Ireland to return to the Commonwealth, British passports for any Irish citizens who want them and the deletion of Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution laying claim to Northern Ireland. The Irish national anthem should also be scrapped because it is, the association claims, offensive to most Irish people.

The association has been growing for the past year under the guidance of Derek Simpson, 40, a Protestant micro-electronics researcher at the university. "Breaking the link with Britain was a mistake," he said. "Republicanism and nationalism has done more to divide people than any bombing campaign and I would also fault the Catholic Church and the Christian brothers for all the untruths that they have pumped out over the years about Unionism."

The association has made contact with David Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, the Orange Order and the Apprentice Boys.

Masked saboteurs attack American grouse shooters

By ROBIN YOUNG AND MICHAEL HORNBY

SABOTEURS yesterday attacked a party of Americans on the opening day of the grouse-shooting season.

The saboteurs were said to have confronted the group after a day's shooting at Gilmorby Moor, two miles south of Bowes, in Co Durham. Some of the gang, armed with staves and wearing balaclavas and ski masks, attacked the guns and left at least six people needing first aid. Up to 70 police officers were sent to the moor.

The British Field Sports Society said last night: "A party of elderly American gentlemen were attacked and several of them were injured, though mercifully none of them seriously. Once again it is a case of serious and wanton violence from the saboteurs."

"One of the gentlemen in the shooting party received a black eye while others were distressed and shaken. They came to enjoy a week's shooting in a very beautiful part of England and end up being attacked like this. It was an appalling incident."

Durham police said: "Officers on the moor say no shooting was taking place when the two sides clashed. Police are also investigating claims that cameras and camera bags were stolen during the flare-up."

The first day of the season in England got off to a



Grouse is already on London hotel menus

slow start, with many sportsmen electing to wait a week or two before reaching for their guns. In Scotland, there was more activity, with many small family shoots getting under way, although cold and wet weather in May and June had affected the incubation of many young birds in southeast Scotland.

The first birds were on offer at the Savoy and Connaught hotels for dinner last night, but with August 12 falling in the midst of an oppressive heatwave, many other establishments had decided to go without supplies.

"With the weather like this, and anyone who can afford them already sunning themselves on a yacht in the South of France, what is the point?" asked Nico Ladens of Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane. "Eating them without hanging means they are simply stinky and flavourless."

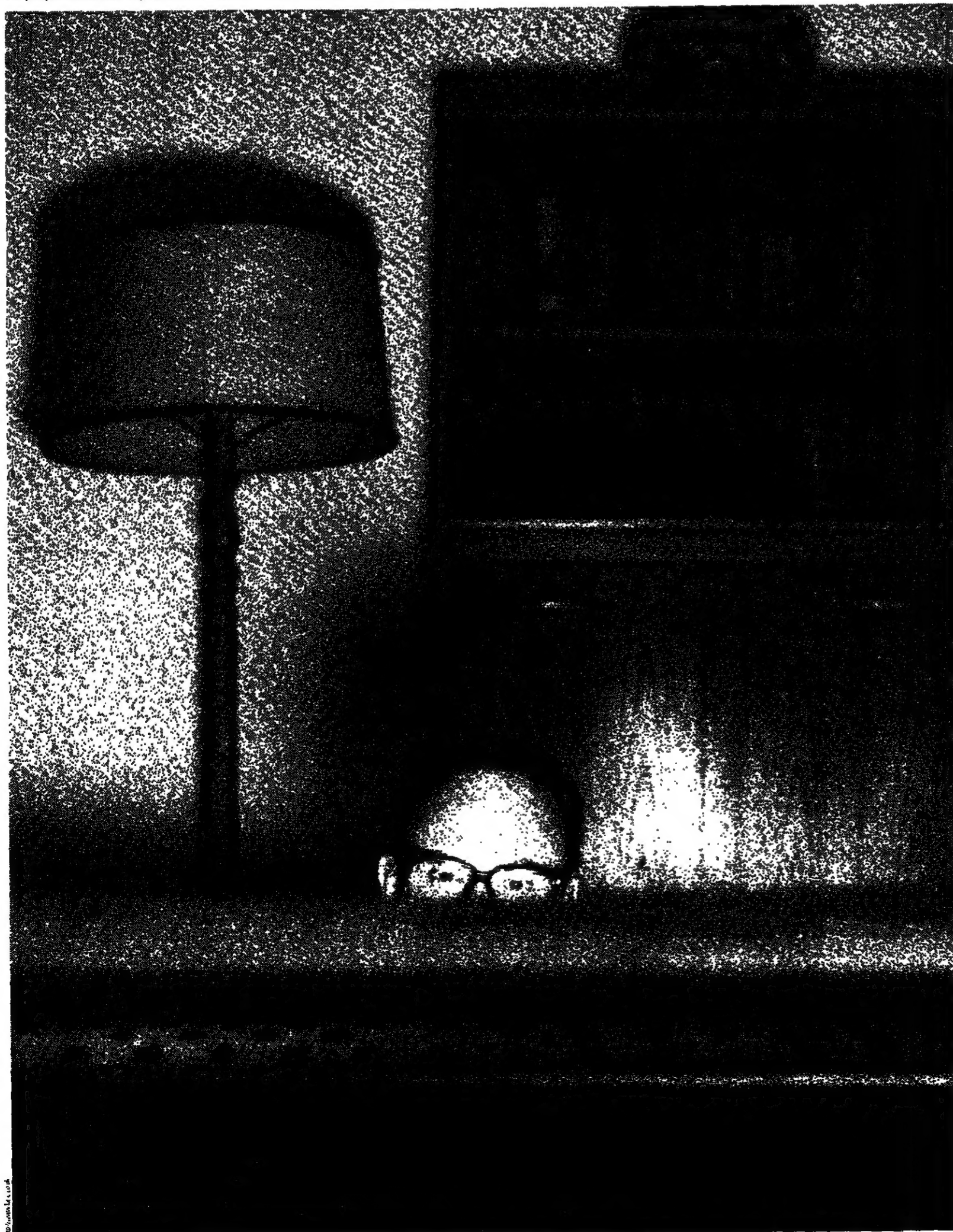
In the last year, BBC programmes and services have helped over 40 million people with their education. From children and teachers in over 90% of the country's schools, to our older (and subsequently wiser) viewers.

For instance, the BBC has created two unique campaigns especially for adults. 'Computers Don't Bite', a computer literacy programme and 'Count Me In', a service for people with numeracy difficulties which attracted 200,000 calls for help. (51 year

old Mr. Gibbins's, below, being one of them.) 'The Learning Zone' meanwhile, is designed for viewers who want to record programmes during the night, then watch later.

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You can find out more about how your money is spent in the BBC Annual Report available at bookshops and libraries. See, we even encourage you to do your homework.



BBC education programmes now reach more people after school. IN ONE CASE, 35 YEARS AFTER SCHOOL.

Computers gets its

trapped in car dies

to bring

Computer tax program gets its figures wrong

Software confused pounds and pence and missed out allowances, reports Mark Henderson

ACCOUNTANTS and the Inland Revenue are warning taxpayers to be wary of using computer software to calculate their self-assessment tax returns, after 50,000 users were told that they may have submitted incorrect forms because of programming errors.

Intuit, one of the world's leading publishers of personal tax software, said that users of its QuickTax 97 product could have overpaid or underpaid their bills because of problems with the program. The company said that it would pay any fines incurred by customers, and would consider paying interest where customers had overpaid.

The Inland Revenue said yesterday that taxpayers should be cautious about relying on software to fill in their tax returns, which have to be submitted by the end of January if taxpayers are calculating how much they owe.

The deadline is September 30 for those who want the Inland Revenue to work out the amount due. "People must use their judgment properly and remember that ultimately they are responsible for checking information is correct," a spokesman said. "We do not recommend that people lean too heavily on a computer aid."

Elspeth May, a tax partner with the accountants KPMG, said she would advise taxpayers against using computer software to complete their forms. "We are even having problems with our professional software, because it is the first year of self-assessment," she said.

"I think it is probably too much to ask of taxpayers to do a self-assessment form for the first time, and to use a computer package at the same time. There is a place for the computer systems, but people would normally be

better off spending the money on an accountant or chartered tax adviser."

She said that chartered accountants and chartered tax advisers were bound by a professional code, which offered taxpayers some protection if errors were made in their returns. Taxpayers face fines of £100 for forms that are returned late or completed incorrectly.

The Inland Revenue sent out more than eight million self-assessment forms in April, and has already received 2.5 million returns. About half the forms so far submitted have been filled in incorrectly, and about 10 per cent have had to be returned to taxpayers for further information.

Tony Macklin, marketing manager of Intuit UK, said the software had missed out some allowances and confused pounds with pence. "There are teething problems, but we are standing by our product and will do all

we can to help customers with it," he said. "Penalties are unlikely because customers are more likely to have overpaid, but if there are any we will pay them."

He said it was hard to estimate the numbers affected because QuickTax 97 is available only with the firm's Quicken personal finance package, and that not all the 50,000 Quicken users in Britain would have used it to fill in their tax returns. Users will be sent replacement software before September 30, the first deadline for returns to be submitted. Intuit also markets tax software in the United States, Germany, Australia and Canada, which all have self-assessment tax systems.

Intuit UK has opened a free phone helpline for customers concerned about tax returns compiled with QuickTax 97. It is 0800 731 1958.

Crab gathering catches scientist by surprise

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A SCIENTIST who stumbled on a vast gathering of crabs, covering the size of a tennis court and ten animals deep, may have unravelled the mystery of why the crustaceans hold mass meetings.

Ken Collins, a marine scientist at Southampton University, spotted the enormous mound of spiny spider crabs while diving off Burton Bradstock, near Bridport, Dorset. "I have been diving for 25 years and in all that time I have never seen aggregations anywhere near this size," he said yesterday.

"Although there is documentation that spiny crabs come together in this way periodically, no one yet fully knows why or can predict where and when these mass meetings take place."

Dr Collins, of the university's department of oceanology, estimates that he saw 50,000 crabs weighing about 10 tonnes. Spiny spider crabs, which can grow to the size of a human hand, are common in Britain. They are exported to the Continent where they are prized for their sweet meat.

Some scientists believe the mass meetings bring males and females together for mating. But Dr Collins said: "Let's face it, you do not need to get together with thousands of others to mate."

He believes the gatherings provide security in numbers

at a vulnerable period in the crabs' lives. "Unlike creatures with an internal skeleton, crustaceans have a hard exoskeleton which they must shed each time they grow. Underneath their shells, crabs are soft and therefore extremely vulnerable to predation in the hours between moulting an old, tight shell and the new shell hardening," Dr Collins said.

Most lobsters and crabs crawl into a hole to develop their new shells out of sight of predators. The spiny spider crab's behaviour gives small, young crabs protection beneath older, tougher adults.

"I have dived all over the world, from the Caribbean to the Great Barrier Reef, yet this is the most amazing sight I have ever seen and right on my doorstep," Dr Collins said.

He asked divers and beachcombers to alert him about similar sightings and also discoveries of large numbers of crab shells on the shore.

A golden haddock has been landed off the Scilly Isles. The 4lb haddock stood out like a goldfish among a catch of its grey peers. David Stevens, a trawler skipper, said: "It is now in a Ministry of Agriculture freezer awaiting examination. Silja Swaby, of the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, said: "The melanin pigment is absent, so it's really an albino."



Some of the 50,000 spiny spider crabs, four metres down in waters off Dorset

Girl trapped in lake car dies

By Paul Wilkinson

THE seven-year-old girl who was trapped in a water-filled car for 40 minutes has died. Cherrie Greenwood survived for four days. She was pulled from a lake by firemen, who used their breathing apparatus as aqualungs and weighted themselves with rocks to reach the car.

Andrew Jakeman, the firefighter from Selby, North Yorkshire, who pulled her clear, said yesterday: "My heart goes out to the family. I am devastated Cherrie did not make it."

Cherrie's mother, Stephany, 22, and stepfather, Roy Olbison, 22, were at her bedside when she died on Monday night at Leeds General Infirmary. Cherrie was trapped when the family's VW Golf accidentally rolled backwards on Friday into the 20ft deep disused quarry near Pontefract, Yorkshire, known locally as the Blue Lagoon.

Her mother escaped through an open window.

The parents, from Lower Ackworth, near Pontefract, who have an 18-month-old son, Joseph, were too distressed to talk. Mr Olbison's stepmother, Pat, said: "They never left her side and talked to her all the time. It's such a tragedy. Cherrie was very noisy and lively. She was a lovely girl."

Wayne Hamer, accident and emergency consultant at the infirmary, said young children had been known to recover after spending more than an hour under water. "When water hits the face it triggers a diving reflex, and combined with the cold water, the heart slows, very, very rapidly. But the heart is still beating and the child drifts into unconsciousness as the metabolic rate drops... That is why we continue prolonged resuscitation techniques."

Thirsty signalman closes line to have a cup of tea

By Paul Wilkinson

A THIRSTY signalman abandoned his box and went home for a cup of tea, leaving two trainloads of passengers stranded in 80C temperatures without any refreshments of their own.

More than 60 travellers were trapped after the parched Railtrack worker locked his signals in the line-closed position and knocked off early from his box in the Yorkshire Dales. More people had to wait at stations along the line.

The passengers' plight was intensified by the knowledge that the usual buffet trolleys packed with iced drinks were not on board because the caterers had failed to turn up. He came more and more desperate. By 10.50am he could take no more. He locked the old-style semaphore signals in the down position so trains could not pass and left, walking a mile across the open moor to where his car was parked. He then drove ten miles home for a brew.

The incident happened on

Monday when the railway worker found he was without water at the start of his eight-hour shift at 6am. His box between Ribbleshead and Dent stations has no piped supply, and a regular delivery of two flagons on an empty train from Skipton failed to arrive.

As the temperatures rose the dry-mouthed signalman became more and more desperate. By 10.50am he could take no more. He locked the old-style semaphore signals in the down position so trains could not pass and left, walking a mile across the open moor to where his car was parked. He then drove ten miles home for a brew.

His action halted the 9.47am Leeds to Carlisle train for an hour and 15 minutes in sight of waiting passengers at Settle station. It also stopped the 10.47am service farther down the line. When the second signalman came on

duty both trains were combined at 12.05pm.

The worker, who has not been identified, was being questioned by senior Railtrack managers yesterday. Bill Heard, a spokesman for Regional Railways North East, which runs the train service, said: "Scores of passengers were affected. We also had a problem because European Catering Service, for some reason, did not turn up for the trains. That is a matter we are investigating. We want to know exactly why this man shut down the box and consequently shut down the line. We can only apologise."

One passenger, Steven Briggs, of Sunderland, said: "It was boiling on that train and we were all thirsty. The signalman had a job to do and it is no good just walking out and leaving us stuck in the middle of nowhere, even if he does want a cup of tea."

Lottery to bring Saxon burial site to life

By Michael Hornsby

A GRANT of £3.6 million has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve public access to one of Britain's most important archaeological treasures, the 7th-century burial ground of Saxon chieftains at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

The National Trust, which was offered the 332-acre Sutton Hoo Estate as a gift two years ago, said yesterday that the aim was to attract 50,000 visitors a year to the site on the River Deben, near Woodbridge.

A further £1.06 million will come from bequests to the trust and from donations by



Gold clasps and a buckle found at Sutton Hoo

the Annie Trimmer Charitable Trust, which previously owned the estate, Suffolk County Council, the Rural Development Commission and the European Union. The trust is to launch a

separate appeal for £100,000 to bring the total funding to £4.66 million.

Work will start next year on a visitor centre, a shop, a tearoom and an explanatory exhibition hall, all to open in

2000. A car park and a network of footpaths round the site should be ready by 1999.

Peter Rooley, publicity officer for the Sutton Hoo Society, said: "Sutton Hoo has long been a mecca for archaeologists, but it has not had a high public profile hitherto. We are delighted the funds now exist to bring the site to a much wider audience."

Professor Martin Carver, director of the Sutton Hoo Research Trust, said: "Sutton Hoo is a beacon of knowledge for the formation of the early kingdoms of Dark Age Europe, and this award will allow a first class on-site

presentation of its unique contribution to history."

The importance of the site was revealed in 1939 when, at the instigation of the landowner, a tumulus was excavated to reveal the outline of a clinker-built timber ship, 89ft long, filled with a rich collection of grave goods.

Archaeologists believe the ship-burial may have been the grave of Raedwald, a king of the East Angles, who died around 625. Among the items found were a helmet, sword and shield, gold coins, silver and bronze bowls, a great silver dish from Byzantium, and decayed clothing, including a cloak of Near East origin.

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Be here now, but come back next week

Carol Midgley reports on the hype surrounding Oasis's latest album

OASIS fans, desperate to hear the band's long-awaited new album, were last night caught up in one of the most sophisticated marketing operations of the decade.

Frenzied teenagers crowded into Virgin megastores across the country, where exclusive preview copies of *Be Here Now* were piped across in-store radios.

However, the fans were not allowed to buy the album. That would have disrupted the carefully controlled publicity operation that has dominated its release since last month. Instead they were asked to return a week tomorrow when it goes on sale.

Hype surrounding *Be Here Now* has been described as some of the most sophisticated in pop history. Followers of Noel and Liam Gallagher and their band have been teased with drips of information disseminated in hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles, while radio stations have fought for snatches of the album. When it goes on sale on August 21, it is expected to sell 700,000 copies in three

days, climbing straight to No 1 in the charts.

Only a handful of reviewers have been allowed to hear the hallowed tape, and they have had to sign detailed contracts with Creation Records promising that they will not play it to anyone else. Retailers have been forbidden to open at midnight on August 21 to sell the first copies of what is almost certain to be the biggest-selling album of the year.

Instead, they will go on sale at 8am on the day, with HMV opening all 100 stores early and providing breakfast and "first-day cover" certificates.

Mike McGeever, programming editor of *Music and Media*, Billboard's sister publication in Britain, said: "It has all been about hype, but it is a very clever marketing play. It creates a real buzz. There is an atmosphere not unparalleled with the Beatles."

He added that allowing fans to hear the album but not to buy it was to create a "Pavlov's dogs" effect, but he said it could backfire. "It's a tease," he said. "If you are hearing something you want but you



Clare Kember, DJ at the Virgin megastore in Oxford Street, preparing for the preview of *Be Here Now*

can't buy it, you could end up feeling very frustrated. And all this waiting increases the expectation of the album. Let's hope it's good."

Oasis's recent single, *D'You Know What I Mean*, caused some ill feeling as it was

promised exclusively to Radio 1, but other commercial stations got it at the same time, scooping the BBC and leading to on-air sniping between the various DJs.

Photographic Performance Ltd, the body which licenses

records for public use in Britain, issued an almost unprecedented embargo to broadcasters on their use of the album. Colleen Hue, head of external affairs at PPL, said: "It's very, very rare. It's not something we would like to

repeat. It is a huge task to carry out this exercise."

Oasis fans have been backing the band for the No. 1 Christmas single. William Hill have them at 3-1 second favourites behind the Spice Girls at 5-4.

Sound and fury that signifies something big

Alan Jackson reviews the new album, and finds himself applauding a band that has taken a risk by refusing to compromise



WITH a sound that is juggernaut-big and equally unstoppable, *Be Here Now* offers an Oasis so idiosyncratic and uncompromising as to be almost cartoon-like.

The musical equivalent to the manifestation of the Gallagher brothers (mouthy, anti-establishment and in-your-face, but despite it all, with hearts of tarnished gold) that has so captivated their fans, it shows itself simultaneously ready to buy a drink for all its mates, and to cuff sceptics around the ears with its full-on wall of sound. Given that nothing threatens anti-heroic status quite like a gesture of compromise to the mainstream, how much more efficient can one loud, proud rock LP be?

Inevitably, all those lulled into a false sense of security by Noel Gallagher's public endorsements of his songwriting idol Burt Bacharach, and by the Mike Flowers Pop-camp-but-nice reconstruction of *Wonderwall*, are going to find themselves slapped around the face and smug.

Even though *Be Here Now*'s two most rounded and satisfying songs, *The Girl in the Dirty Shirt* and *Don't Go Away*, are romantic and affecting at heart, they could hardly be described as easy listening. And elsewhere, with producer Owen Morris taking on the mantle of a latter-day Phil Spector, the sound is uneasy indeed.

But what, if anything, does it signify, all this sound and fury? It signifies that with this, their third album, Oasis are demanding to be viewed as world contenders, not just the gangland victors of 1995's Britpop wars. There is also

lately nothing staid or self-effacing about these 11 new songs: collectively they form possibly the most swaggering, unapologetic studio set we have heard since U2 hit their commercial peak.

What will either charm or alarm the band's hoped-for and potentially vast new audience in America is just how little attention these same songs pay to what has been happening musically outside of the British Isles. Noting the genre's tendency towards cannibalism, critic and commentator David Quantick once predicted "pop will eat itself". *Be Here Now* is the result of that feasting and regurgitation: from the inevitable Beatles to Led Zeppelin, the Small Faces to Mott, the Who, all worthwhile domestic rock life (even their own back-catalogue) is here, the reference points sometimes so little disguised as to appear barely half-chewed.

What binds this stew together in convincing and, ultimately, celebratory fashion however is the Gallagher's sheer and infectious self-confidence. Track after track is allowed to expand to suit itself: most clock in at around the six-minute mark, with *All Around the World* (the compositionally weakest of all) stretching to a full nine, with an additional reprise.

Behind this sonic swagger though, can be found endearing acknowledgements of individual weakness: "Damn my education/I can't find the words to say/All the things caught in my mind." It is this facility for such everyman-ish tones, at once cocky but vulnerable, that is central to the Oasis success story.

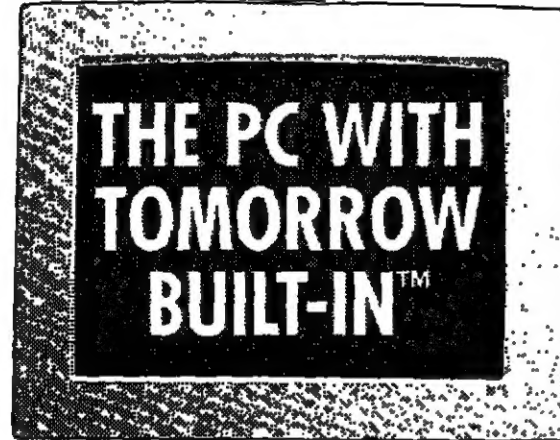
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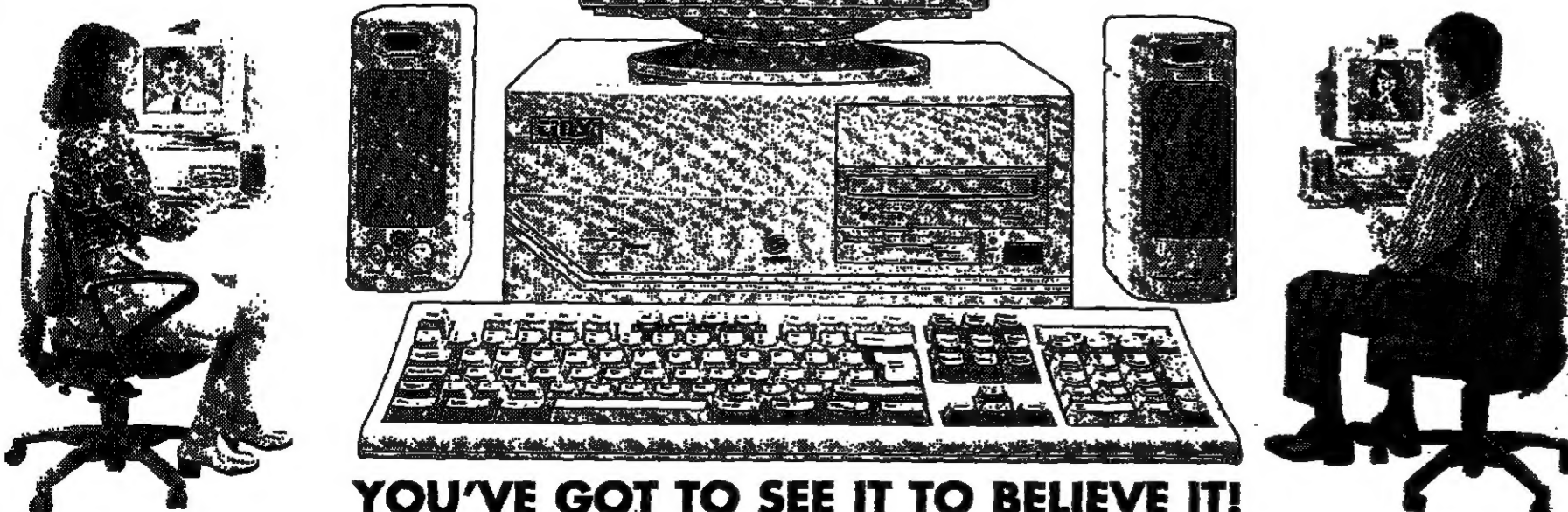
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Mouthy: Gallagher brothers Liam, left, and Noel

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DNA scientists join war against malaria

A century after the discovery of how it spreads, the disease kills 2 million

people a year. Nigel Hawkes reports

A HUNT for a new weapon against malaria has been launched as the disease threatens to get out of control around the world. The £8 million research project is starting a century almost to the day since the British physician Ronald Ross discovered that mosquitoes were the carriers for malaria parasites, and passed it on when they bit.

Scientists working for the Wellcome Trust, a British charity, will spend three years working out the full genetic sequence of the parasite, to identify features that may be susceptible to attack by drugs. Malaria kills more than two million people a year, most of them children. It is increasingly resistant to drugs, and poses a threat to tourists from the West who visit malaria-prone regions. The disease has spread back into India, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Turkey, and there have been sporadic cases in many US states.

Dr John Stephenson, of the Wellcome Trust, said: "The rapid and continuing increase of drug-resistant malaria parasites is presenting the possibility that soon there may no longer be any effective treatment." The new project is

based at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus at Hinxton, near Cambridge.

Genetic information that controls the life cycle of the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* is stored in the base-pairs which link together to make up the DNA. It is estimated to contain 30 million base-pairs, making it considerably larger than any other organism so far sequenced.

The work is likely to be shared with an American team, but final details have yet to be worked out. Dr Stephenson said: "This important and innovative initiative will accelerate the pace of research into this devastating disease and identify tens of thousands of novel drug and vaccine targets, instead of the few currently available."

Malaria has become resistant to chloroquine, the cheapest and most widely available drug. Resistance has also developed to a more recent drug, mefloquine (Lariam), which many people are reluctant to take because of reported side-effects such as dizziness.

Traditional methods of controlling the disease — including mosquito nets, insecticides and draining the pools where



Ross: he won a Nobel prize for his discovery

the mosquitoes breed — have faltered in many countries.

An international conference next week in Hyderabad, India, will bring together 650 scientists, public health officials and funding agencies. Marking the centenary of Ross's discovery, the aim is to raise awareness and call for concerted action to prevent what the Malaria Foundation calls "a major worldwide public health disaster".

Before 20 August 1897, when Ross worked out how the parasite spread, the popular view had been that it was caused by contaminated air (hence malaria) or through infected water. Others had speculated that the mosquito was responsible; Ross, who worked for the Indian Medical

Service, proved it by dissecting mosquitoes, including one which had just fed on a malaria patient.

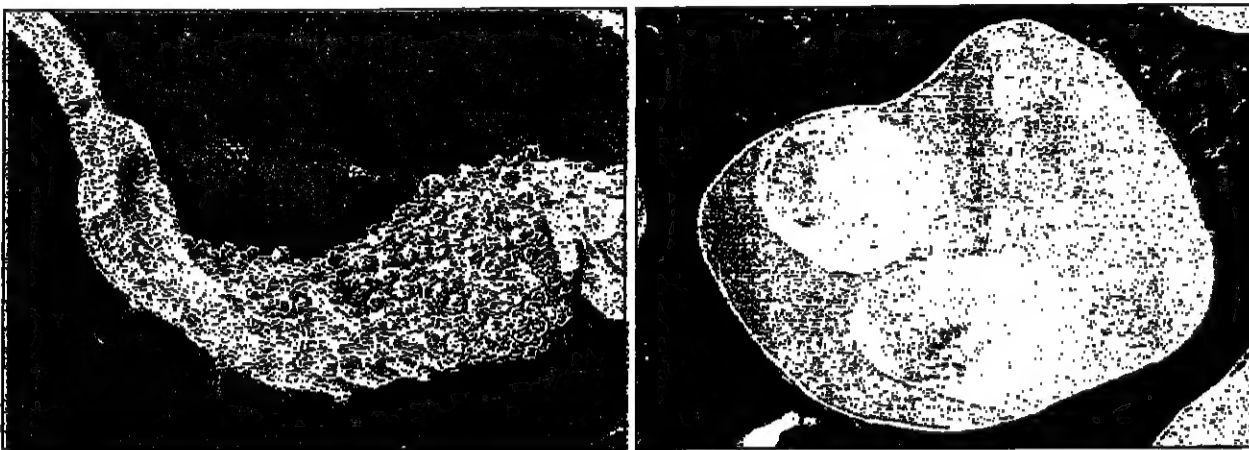
This mosquito yielded the parasites that had already been identified as the cause of the disease. By killing mosquitoes or preventing them from breeding or biting, it was discovered that the disease could be controlled. Ross won the Nobel Prize in 1902, and was knighted in 1911. He died in 1932.

Perhaps the greatest early success from his discovery was in Panama, a graveyard for the French team which had tried and failed to build a canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Poor planning, disease and a financial scandal defeated them. Later, the successful American team had the advantage of Ross's work, and the canal was completed in 1914.

Malaria was common in England between the times of Elizabeth I and Victoria; Shakespeare called it the ague. It disappeared between 1860 and 1930. Medical historians have long argued over how this happened, suggesting better housing, easier availability of quinine and the introduction of the turnip in about 1860 as a winter feed for cattle. The turnip enabled many animals to be kept alive through the winter instead of being slaughtered, and mosquitoes preferred to bite cows than human beings.



The inside story: a mosquito feasts on human blood while, along its stomach wall, below left, malaria parasites are shown in blue on an electron-micrograph picture. Right, parasites (blue and pink) attack a red blood cell



Elderly drivers less dangerous than young

RECENTLY, when driving from the Reform Club, I was stopped by the police. Why, they asked, was I driving so slowly? The reply that I was "thinking" was considered inadequate and I was asked to take a breath test. When their meter failed to show a response, they repeated the test and then their initial question.

They were decent officers, doing their duty, and afterwards they patted me on the back and said: "Ah well, slowly, if you like driving slowly that's your right."

Fortunately, most older motorists travel slowly. Steady driving and the caution born of experience helps to



minimise tragedies such as that in Hampshire on Monday, when a mother died and her baby was injured after a woman aged 84 died at the wheel of her car and crashed into them.

Sudden fatalities are rare. A patient with a coronary thrombosis feels crushing chest pain and nausea, which usually gives time to draw into the side of the road.

Many strokes are heralded by the worst headache that can be imagined and only the most selfish, or brave, would fail to pull into a layby.

Cardiac arrhythmia, some forms of stroke, and seizures can cause immediate paralysis, but fortunately these are rare while an elderly person is driving.

Chronic problems are more likely to create a risk for older

drivers. Failing eyesight and increasing dementia may lead to an accident if a motorist pulls out at a junction without looking properly.

The law says that eyesight is to be tested in good light and does not differentiate between day and night vision. Even at dusk, eyesight begins to fail in older patients and this could make driving unsafe. Oncoming headlights can cause disabling dazzle, particularly if cataracts are developing. Glaucoma shrinks the field of vision so that a pedestrian on the pavement may not be noticed.

Older patients are more likely to nod off if they have

had a sleepless night and attempt to travel too far the next day. Long-distance driving should always include time set aside for a rest or nap on the way.

Once a driver has reached the age of 70 the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency asks pertinent questions before a licence is renewed. A medical examination is requested if there are doubts. Road deaths are, however, more likely to be caused by a speeding young driver than a sick elderly motorist.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

X-ray vision helps doctors to reach their diagnosis

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS at Hammersmith Hospital in west London can now consult X-ray images on screen, using an electronic system inaugurated yesterday by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

The system allows doctors to enlarge part of the image for closer study, and to fetch it on monitors in the hospital's wards, clinics, operating theatres and casualty units. Patients should benefit from

receiving lower doses of radiation, and an end to delays caused by not having X-ray film available.

The £13 million Picture Archiving and Communication System is the result of seven years' research. Nuala Martin, manager of imaging at the hospital, said: "This system offers enormous advantages. There is no risk of images being lost or misfiled, and because of the technology involved the radiation dosage is less than for conventional X-rays. Another advantage, for

doctors and patients, is that the image can be manipulated on screen to enhance or magnify areas. So instead of having to take several X-rays to ensure accurate diagnosis, we need take only one."

She believes that the system is an important step towards worldwide "tele-medicine". "There is no reason why in the future a patient need travel to receive an opinion from a specialist — their images will simply be sent to the consultant's own computer and advice be given by telephone."

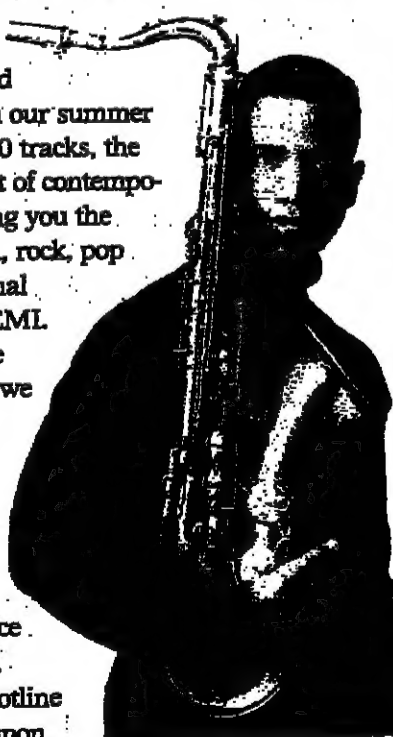
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- (08) Henry Threadgill *Make Hot and Give*
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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Comedians are left labouring for laughter

REAL life has gone beyond a joke for "alternative" comedians. For years, they had never had it so good. Now they are lamenting the passing of the Conservatives.

Comics at the Edinburgh Festival yesterday expressed regret that a wealth of targets for left-wing mockery had been changed by the arrival of Labour. The problem has been partly blamed for a fall in the number of stand-ups on the fringe, from 200 last year to about 140.

"It's messed up my act," Boothby Graffoe grumbled to his audience on Monday night. "I used to be able to say: 'The Government — what bastards!' and get a laugh. Now, it's: 'The Government — hurrah! Let's work with them!' Not quite the same, he said, getting a laugh."

Off stage, he described the Tory downfall as a tragic loss to comedy: "Labour are doing the things we've wanted them to do all this time."

Junior Simpson, a young comedian hailed as the new Lennox, said that the morning after celebrating the election result he woke up to a hangover and the realisation that he had paged of material to rip up: "The rise of what they used to call alternative comedy and the Tory Government go hand in hand. Now, after 18 years — and a lot of people's material was based along that — they may have to turn the page and move on."

One of his gags was prompted by Tony Blair revealing that he smacks his children. Simpson impersonated John Major confiding: "I never slap my kids. My kids slap me."

Nica Burns, director of the Perrier Award, Britain's most prestigious comedy prize, said that most comics were Labour voters: "Even if Tony Blair blows it, it's going to be very hard to knock them. He's PC. Comedy is about subversion and fighting against something. The more hated

Dalya Alberge reports on how the political satirists are already missing their Tory targets

the Government, the more material there is for performers. Thatcher provided a lot of comedians with a lot of material. For that reason only, they were sad to see her go. John Major was just glasses and a grey suit. Tony is handsome, charming and clever. Well, that's just not funny!

A new award at the festival has been launched by London Weekend Television's comedy unit and its controller of comedy, Humphrey Barclay. Yesterday he spoke of the need to rejuvenate comedy. Sensing a need for more

political work, he is producing a topical comment show, *Stuff The Week*. The winner of the LWT Writing Award will receive a £1,000 cheque and a commission to develop a script for television.

Mr Barclay said that comedians were wondering what was left to be angry about. "I remember John Cleese saying that satire can only exist under a right-wing government. He may be right," Mr Barclay's team has been debating whether there is satire to be done under a Labour Government. "It demands more original thought."

Other comics felt that Labour was simply too dull. Donna McPhail, who is appearing at the Gilded Balloon theatre, said: "They don't seem to have a sense of humour. I'm on the verge of thinking they're too boring. Let's get the Tories back."

However, her hopes were raised by Robin Cook's infidelity. Her latest routine also touches on Cherie Blair, the Prime Minister's wife. "She's a bit of a slapper, opening her front door. But I liked her nylon nightie and the mascara coming down her face. I used to say Norma doesn't go to bed, they hang her up in a closet."

Marcus Brigstocke, winner of the 1996 BBC New Comedy award, felt that some comedians would be uneasy knocking Labour, while others, such as himself, felt that Labour policies were so close to the Tories' that nothing had changed.

Some of the more radical left-wing comedians had no hesitation in attacking a Labour Government. Mark Thomas, who will be appearing at Edinburgh Queen's Hall, said: "Mark Twain once said that the last person you want in the White House is someone who wants to be there. That's the attitude people should take."

Arts, page 31



A Major loss: Junior Simpson used to mock the last Prime Minister. Now he has ripped up pages of jokes

Jokes will be on Mandelson

By MARK HENDERSON

VETERANS of political satire were certain yesterday that the Government's comedy honeymoon would soon be over. Barry Took, who took aim at politicians in *That Was The Week That Was* in the 1960s, said comedians would go for whichever party was in power.

"There has been political satire and jokes as long as there has been writing. On *TW3* we took the piss out of Harold Wilson every bit as much as we did Macmillan and Douglas-Home," Took said yesterday.

New Labour had not yet done enough in government to allow comedians to find a theme, he said. "There are plenty of characters to go for, but they are still fresh, and also very shrewd. Cook and Mandelson look like good targets, but are too bright to be got. Saying Mandelson's up to something sinister is



Barry Took, left, has already picked his targets, but David Baddiel feels a new approach is needed



like saying that chap Machiavelli is causing trouble in Italy."

Michael Palin, who poked fun in *Monty Python*, said: "Satire should be oblivious of whatever party is in power and should seek to knock the absurdities of life. It should go beyond politics."

He said that the Conserva-

tives had particularly excelled at making "fools of themselves", but added that there was plenty of time for Labour to match them.

Ned Sherrin, another *TW3* veteran, said: "Labour should enjoy the joll as they will have years of sniping. It will be like Wilson's Government, loving *TW3* in Opposi-

tion but hating it in power. Harman and Dobson have all the comic potential of a George Brown. Peter Mandelson will be funny when he comes out of his coffin at night."

David Baddiel, a younger member of the comedy establishment, felt that political comedy had been on the wane for years. "I have always made a conscious decision not to do it, as everyone was doing it when I started," he said.

Baddiel, who interviewed Tony Blair for *The Enormous Turnip*, a television show that sought to introduce politics to a younger audience, added: "The sort of gags I do about politicians are not political: more situational or observational. There is no message like you used to get with Ben Elton."

"People can also be topical without being political. You can joke about Dodi and Di or Oasis and still be satirical."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brockett tryst inquiry

The Prison Service is investigating claims that Lord Bocket, who is serving five years for a £4.5 million vintage car fraud, spent an hour in bed with a woman during a fake medical appointment. Ford open prison in West Sussex is checking an appointment made by Bocket with a physiotherapist. A prison officer took him to a house ten miles from the prison and watched as Bocket was ushered inside by an attractive young woman. The curtains were drawn and Bocket spent an hour inside. The officer reported the incident to the governor.

Pilot named

The two men who died in a helicopter crash near the M6 in Lancashire were named as Peter Thornt, the pilot of Weybridge, Surrey, and Peter Huxler, 38, of Epworth, Yorkshire. They were carrying out gas pipeline checks.

Sky-jumper hurt

A parachutist was taken to hospital after leaping 400ft from a 41-storey building in the Barbican, London. The man, who injured his leg, was among a group of five jumpers. The others landed safely and ran off.

999 call hoaxer

A 16-year-old who made hoax 999 calls was given 100 hours' community service and had his radio equipment confiscated. The teenager from Leeds admitted at a youth court in Bradford to breaches of the Wireless Telegraphy Act.

Wife due home

The wife of the British pastor killed by bandits in Hungary is to return home this week after recovering from treatment. Jo Pollard, 55, had her jaw and nose broken in the attack which left her husband Michael, 62, dead.

Rescue flashback

The yachtsman Tony Bullimore, who survived for four days after capsizing in the Southern Ocean in January, is to recreate his ordeal in Tasmania for a documentary. A replica of his upturned yacht will be built in a pool.

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The Queen and Disraeli, who said that with royalty, flattery should be "laid on with a trowel"

Rivals who were the chalk and cheese of politics

Politics was essentially a spectator sport in Victorian times, and that was true in more senses than one. It was not just a question of the vast crowds that would turn out to hear political speeches: W.E. Gladstone spoke to an audience of at least 25,000 in Bingley Hall, Birmingham, in 1877. (Many Premiership football clubs would count themselves lucky to have that number of people on their terraces today.)

Yet, at the same time, going to see and hear great men was the limit of participation allowed to most citizens. The Great Reform Bill of 1832 had increased the electorate merely from 435,000 to 652,000. Although Disraeli's Second Reform Bill of 1867 raised the total number of voters to nearly two million, it was left for Gladstone with his Third Reform Bill of 1884 not merely to increase the electorate (all of course, men) to nearly four million, but also to extend the franchise to the inhabitants of the countryside. (Country folk, presumably in deference to feudalism, had not been beneficiaries of the previous two Reform Bills.)

Party alignments in those days were also a much more fluid business. When Victoria came to the throne in 1837, her first Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, may have been nominally a Whig, but by temperament and instinct he was a Tory.

Melbourne had been totally unenthusiastic about Lord John Russell's Reform Bill of 1832, and he was never reconciled to Sir Robert Peel's repeal of the Corn Laws in 1845 — the measure that prompted Benjamin Disraeli to remark that a Tory Prime Minister had "caught the Whigs bathing and walked off with their clothes".

That kind of thing was not to happen in British politics

Anthony Howard compares the talents of Gladstone and Disraeli, the party leaders who dominated a century in which the number of British citizens entitled to vote increased slowly but inexorably

again until the advent of Blairism and new Labour. However, if they were not partisan, Victorian politics were still very much personality-dominated. If only in longevity, Gladstone bestrides the era like no one else: he was first elected to Parliament in 1832 and was still an MP, and indeed Prime Minister, at the age of 84 in 1894.

Gladstone's only rival, Disraeli, though he certainly illuminated the political ferment, dazzled for a much briefer period. The two of them, of course, had once been members of the same political party. That was back at the dawn of Gladstone's career when Lord Macaulay famously referred to him in the *Edinburgh Review* of 1839 as "the rising hope of those stern and unbending Tories".

Disraeli, to be fair to him, was never one of those. Indeed, from the moment in the 1840s that he risked a flat lie about never having asked Peel for a job, he was always one of the great chancers of politics — the quality that, no doubt, makes him the "favourite Tory" of left-wing politicians such as Michael Foot.

How such "an adventurer, pure and simple" (to borrow Foot's words again) became the venerated icon of modern progressive Toryism must remain one of the many impenetrable mysteries attached

to such ancestor worship. For Disraeli was, of course, first and foremost an imperialist, the man who did not merely purchase the Suez Canal for Queen Victoria ("You have it, Ma'am, it is yours") but also had her created Empress of India (not that she ever went there, preferring to have rather questionable Indian retain-

In her political attitudes, Victoria always spoke for the women of the country

ers summoned to her service in London). To give the old charlatan his due, there were never any lies on him. It was he, after all, who once cynically observed: "Everyone likes flattery and when you come to royalty you should lay it on with a trowel." (Which is roughly what he did,

NEXT: Nursing with Nightingale, and the engineer who built London's sewers. How the Victorians invented cleanliness and revolutionised public health



Debt-ridden Disraeli was showered with royal gifts

What does a Queen give her favourite Prime Minister as a token of her esteem? Benjamin Disraeli picked up an earldom, but he also acquired a houseful of pictures and superior knick-knacks showered on him by a monarch who believed that none of her ministers had shown her more consideration and kindness.

There is a statuette of John Brown with a pony and dog, and another of him without. She gave "Dizzy" a portrait of herself to hang in his dining room, and his bedroom walls are covered with portraits of the Queen, Albert and their enormous extended family. Some men are given carriage clocks when they retire: the Queen gave Disraeli a weighty bronze of herself seated at a spinning wheel.

Although the first One Nation Tory, Disraeli harboured romantic notions of an England still governed by its old landowning class and he determined to become a country squire himself. Already a successful novelist, unwise dabbling in South American mining shares had nonetheless plunged him into a lifetime of debt. However, marriage to a rich widow enabled him to buy the manor house at Hughenden, nestled in a Chiltern valley above High Wycombe.

Unlike Gladstone, who enjoyed chopping down trees, Disraeli preferred to plant them. The grounds of Hughenden exhibit the fruits of his devotion to forestry, although many of the original

Kindness to his Queen reaped rich rewards, writes Alan Hamilton



Disraeli's dining room, with Victoria's portrait

trees have been replaced. It is still a particularly pleasant place.

Born Jewish but baptised an Anglican at 15, Disraeli entered the Commons in 1837, when Jews were banned from Westminster. He had an immense confidence in his talents even before he entered politics. In his diary for 1833, displayed in the House, he wrote: "My mind is a continental mind. It is a revolution-

ary mind. I am only truly great in action. If ever I am placed in a truly eminent position, I shall prove this. I could rule the House of Commons, although there would be a great prejudice against me at first. It is the most jealous assembly in the world."

As a novelist, he despised most contemporary fiction, except, of course, his own. "If I want to read a novel, I write

one," he remarked. He sent Victoria a complete set of his works; she responded with an elaborately bound volume of Goethe.

In a bedroom at Hughenden are displayed his formal robes as Chancellor of the Exchequer, which by rights he should have handed to his successor. But he was determined that Gladstone should not have them, forcing the great man to have a set of his own made — a set still available for Gordon Brown's use should he overcome his distaste for formal dress.

On Disraeli's death in 1881, Victoria came to Hughenden and sat alone in his study. He declined burial at Westminster Abbey, preferring the country church at the end of his drive. Inside, there is a memorial to him erected by Victoria, with a text from the Book of Proverbs: "Kings love him that speaketh right." *□ Hughenden Manor, Buckinghamshire (National Trust), 1½ miles N of High Wycombe, on A4128 to Great Missenden. Open Wed-Sun, afternoons only (grounds from midday). Adults £3.50, children £1.50*

Country retreat bursting with history's junk

Country houses open to the public can sometimes be sterile places. But not Fasque, the Scottish family seat of the Gladstones in the deep hinterland between Dundee and Aberdeen, where the great man spent much of his childhood and to which he regularly retreated in his older years. Fasque is not only still lived in by Gladstone's great-grandson; it is a gloriously disorganised clutter.

The Gladstone family appear to have been incapable of throwing anything away. Gladstone bags, jammed and rusted shut but still tantalisingly full of goodness knows what, litter the hall. The dairy overflows with a collection of old milk bottles, all different. Ancient carpet sweepers and brass candlesticks lurk in dark corners of the servants' quarters. On a shelf is an elderly megaphone for bellowing instructions at grouse beaters.

As I poked about below stairs, among enormous cane salmon rods with brass reels, gun cases, walking sticks, and a cane device for drying waders, the curator produced a large brown paper parcel tied with string he had found behind a chair only the day before. Its label declared it to be a consignment of paper shooting targets, and it was plastered with "urgent" stickers. It was still waiting to be opened: the postmark showed it had been dispatched from London in 1922. Fasque is the perfect illustration of

The Gladstone family were great hoarders. Alan Hamilton picks over the clutter

Gladstone's eminently Victorian roots: His father, John, made a fortune as a corn merchant in Liverpool, feeding the industrial masses in the Lancashire cotton mills. John Gladstone bought Fasque and its estate in 1829, and it remains largely unchanged from its late-Victorian heyday as the upstairs-downstairs seat of self-made men.

Upstairs is reached by a fine double-cantilever staircase, leading to the light, airy library where William spent many a peaceful hour immersed in Homer. Among the thousands of books is the Gladstone family Bible, with the dynasty's births, marriages and deaths recorded in copperplate on the flyleaf. When I went in, it was lying casually on the floor, and I nearly fell over it. Above the fireplace is a portrait of George Canning, the liberal Tory Prime Minister who was a major influence on William's decision to leave the Tory Party at the time of Corn Law repeal. A side room is devoted to Gladstone



Fasque, the Gladstones' family home at Fettercairn, Aberdeenshire

memorabilia including letters, photographs, ornate gifts from grateful town councils and silver spades with which he cut first sods. Fasque hopes to add Gladstone's battered old red budget box, now that Gordon Brown has replaced it with a smart new number made by apprentices in his Fife constituency.

But it is downstairs that truly reeks of another age. The servants' dining hall is set out as a schoolroom for estate children, equipped with a prehistoric electric radiator and an ancient glass device for demonstrating electricity. In the corridors are first-generation brass telephones and speaking tubes for communication between butler and master, and dusty boxes of Balmoral Sperm — a Victorian brand of candle.

Fasque employed up to 15 domestic staff, and a good number of those would have spent backbreaking Mon-

days in the laundry. Most of the machinery still exists: clothes boilers, mangles, a complex chain-and-belt driven machine for pressing sheets, and a stove for keeping 50 flatirons hot at once.

Gladstone loved this house, and wished he had inherited it rather than his wife's Welsh pile at Hawarden in Flintshire. But Fasque went to his elder brother, Thomas.

Such is the clutter that the family have called in Bonhams to hold an auction of superfluous lumber on September 27. If you cannot make the sale, go soon to the house, before anyone has the bright idea of tidying it up. Fasque House, Aberdeenshire, is on the B974 Brechin to Banchory road, half a mile north of Fettercairn. Open daily until September 30, 11.5-3.30. Adults £3.50, children £1, concessions £2.50. Guided tours on request

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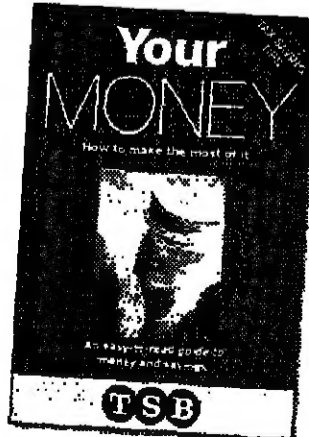
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TSB We want you to say YES

How Elvis tried to aid Nixon in drugs crusade

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE most bizarre White House encounter of modern times — when Elvis Presley met Richard Nixon — was commemorated by the US Administration yesterday.

Adding to the considerable hype marking the twentieth anniversary of Presley's death next Saturday, the National Archives released copious details and photographs on the Internet from official records of the meeting.

Discarding its usual stodgy image, the National Archives' Presley site recounts how, on the morning of December 21, 1970, he arrived unannounced at the White House to deliver a rambling five-page letter to Nixon written on American Airlines stationery.

The rock and roll pioneer wanted to give Nixon a chrome-plated Colt .45, "a real collector's gun", and to obtain for himself the credentials of a federal agent in the war on

drugs. Presley offered to serve privately against what he considered to be threats to America. He wrote: "The drug culture, the hippie elements, the Students for a Democratic Society, Black Panthers etc. do NOT consider me as their enemy or as they call it The Establishment. I call it America and I love it. Sir, I can and will be of any service that I can to help The Country out."

Bud Krogh, a Nixon aide, thought the letter was a hoax until a call to Presley's hotel established that he was indeed in Washington. The meeting was approved, even though H.R. Haldeman, Nixon's humourless chief of staff, wrote on the memo "You must be kidding".

Presley was resplendent in purple velvet cape, tight-fitting matching trousers, a high-collared white shirt open to his chest, a gold medalion around his neck and a gold

belt buckle as wide as a tyre. Nixon, rising from his desk, said: "It's very good to meet you, Mr. Presley. I appreciate your offer to help us on the drug problem." Despite his abuse of prescription drugs that led to his death in 1977, Presley did denounce street drugs at every opportunity.

The meeting was about four months before Nixon bugged the Oval Office and is not preserved on tape. Presley offered his opinion that the Beatles "had been a real force for anti-American spirit".

He showed Nixon badges he had collected from various police forces and photos of his family. He did not mention that two days before he had stormed out of Graceland, his Memphis mansion, in a row with his wife, Priscilla, and his father over his buying six Mercedes-Benz cars and \$38,000 (£23,000) worth of guns as Christmas presents.

"It's my money," he shouted as, for the first time, he left home alone and boarded a commercial flight to Washington. Two bodyguards joined him later.

Nixon said Presley could reach young people as no one in government could. As a paranoid himself, Nixon may have recognised similar symptoms in Presley. He reiterated three times that it was crucial



A resplendent Elvis Presley meets President Nixon at the White House in 1970. The President said: "It's very good to meet you, Mr. Presley. I appreciate your offer to help us on the drug problem"

for Presley to maintain his credibility.

They agreed to keep their meeting secret and, incredibly, no word of it leaked out for 13 months. Nixon consented to Presley having a badge as an honorary agent of the federal Narcotics Bureau.

Presley was so ecstatic that he hugged the President, a gesture that evidently caught Nixon off guard. He responded awkwardly with a pat on the shoulder.

Mr Krogh, now a Seattle lawyer, says: "The meeting was one of the most improbable things that ever happened in the White House. The odds are a million to one that anybody could drive up, hand in a letter to the President and have a meeting three hours later."

Jerry Schilling, one of the bodyguards and now a film producer, said: "You could see there was a meeting of minds between these two guys who

were both at the top of their profession. The top is pretty lonely, no matter what profession you're in."

As for the Colt .45, it was checked over first by the Secret Service and now has pride of place at the Nixon Library and birthplace in Yorba Linda, California.

The meeting can be found at: <http://www.sara.gov/cmh/exhibits.html> □ Carter concern: Jimmy Carter, the former President,

was reported yesterday to wonder if he could have saved Elvis Presley who phoned him while "totally stoned" weeks before his death.

Presley did not know what he was saying and his sentences were almost incoherent. Mr Carter told *The New Yorker* magazine. He said he had patiently tried to ease Presley out of his paranoid delusions, calming his fears that he was being "shadowed" by sinister forces.

Kennedy clan lose leading supporter

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

ONE of the most consistent supporters of the Kennedys, *The New York Times*, appears at last to have turned against its favourite clan.

In a hard-hitting editorial published yesterday entitled "Naked Kennedy Truth", the newspaper described John F. Kennedy Jr., the son of President Kennedy, as "vapid", attacking him for a piece he wrote this week for his own magazine, *George*, in which he described two of his cousins as "poster boys for bad behaviour".

"John Kennedy's little essay", the newspaper said, is a "sign of the end of the Kennedys as an entitled political class".

The editorial continues: "Members of the third generation, like Representative Joseph Kennedy [the son of the late Robert Kennedy] in his faltering bid for the Massachusetts governorship, will have to be judged on the content of what they write and say, rather than as packages of money and genes."

The tone of the editorial would appear to suggest a pronounced departure from *The New York Times*'s customary pro-Kennedy stance, which it has maintained unwaveringly through a succession of recent peccadilloes, rape charges and messy divorces.

Insiders suggest that Mr Kennedy's latest offering in *George*, which the editorial calls "sophomoric", has proved the last straw for Howell Raines, the editor of the editorial page.

A thundering Southern moralist, he is believed to have been deeply offended by Mr Kennedy's description of his cousin Michael's alleged sexual relationship with an underage babysitter as a "hedge against morality".

"John Kennedy should learn to call sleeping with the babysitter sleeping with the babysitter," the editorial declares.

A newspaper source said: "The *New York Times* has always had a higher idea of the Kennedys than the Kennedys have had about themselves. It was all bound to unravel one day."

Brits add touch of evil to Hollywood cast of villains

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AS POLITICAL correctness and a certain *fin de siècle* embarrassment drive Hollywood to pension off such staple baddies as Arab terrorists, wily Orientals and Latino drug lords, one "ethnic group" — the British — remains untouched by changing trends.

For all the new-fangled racial sensitivity that has swept Tinseltown in recent years, it is still permissible to cast the Brits as evil.

Indeed, some would say that it is positively encouraged.

As the cry goes up for "ethnically neutral" villains, Hollywood is also resorting increasingly to Communist bad guys. *Air Force One*, this week's box-office success, features crazed Communist missile-slingers who are determined to restore Russia to its full Brezhnevite glory. The film is a reassuring return to older certitudes, when America equalled "good" and Communists equalled "bad".

A forthcoming film, *The Red*

Corner, features titanic tussles between the good old boys from America and Chinese Communists bent on killing off the capitalist monster. As with *Air Force One*, the villains' ethnicity — Chinese or Russian — is submerged in a sea of "ideology". Evil doctrine erases Slavic features, Russian accents, narrow eyes, and an inability to pronounce the letter "r".

Yet the British have withstood even this onslaught, featuring in a number of recent films as the devil incarnate. From *The Silence of the*

Lambs and *The Lion King*, to *Star Wars*, *Braveheart* and *Michael Collins*, the British, or their accent, are employed to portray fiendishness, villainy and cruelty.

Hannibal Lecter, played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, was the textbook Brit from Hollywood central casting. Machiavellian, snobbish, toffee-voiced and totally amoral, although playing an American he nourished a stereotype of Britons that America has cherished ever since it fought to free itself from the Empire. And if one feature forms

the basis of the image, it is the accent: it oozes, to American ears, a malice unrivalled by other races.

There are other stereotypes, of course, that turn on the accent. The same manner of speech that can make an audience break out in boos — consider Scar, the *Lion King*'s evil uncle, to whom Jeremy Irons lent his cut-glass voice — can, at a Manhattan soirée, cause a hostess to flush with pleasure. "O, I love your accent," is a phrase that British hear almost daily in America, and never really tire of hearing.

From cabbies to dentists, from cashiers to the woman beside one at a dinner party, a well-bred British accent works wonders in America, melting all resistance. Yet take that voice to the screen, and it provokes fear, sending shivers down the spine of audiences.

The British, however, take this in their stride. As long as Hollywood needs villains, it will need Britons. No one, neither the audiences, nor the actors, is complaining.

Leading article, page 17

Tim Hames, page 16

Klinghoffer family ends PLO suit

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE family of Leon Klinghoffer, the disabled New Yorker who was shot in his wheelchair and pushed overboard from the cruise ship *Achille Lauro* 12 years ago by Palestinian gunmen, have agreed to drop their lawsuit against the Palestine Liberation Organisation in return for a substantial monetary settlement.

The sum, which has not been disclosed, is believed to amount to tens of millions of dollars. The PLO also settled its litigation with Crown Travel, the New Jersey travel company which organised the ill-starred Mediterranean cruise for Mr Klinghoffer and his wife, Marilyn, in 1985, taken to celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary.

However, Nasser al-Kidwa, the PLO's permanent observer at the United Nations, insisted that the settlement was not an admission of wrongdoing. He said: "We have always said that the PLO had nothing to do with this tragic event and we maintain, of course, that position."

The PLO has always argued that the attack on the *Achille Lauro* on October 8, 1985, was the work of a renegade group acting without the knowledge or support of the organisation's high command.

Arafat to meet demands for crackdown on terror

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinian Authority appeared last night to be nearing a compromise as Israeli television reported that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had agreed to clamp down on Islamic militants.

This followed assurances from Dennis Ross, the US Special Envoy, that he would address Palestinian complaints against Israel.

Continuing his shuttle diplomacy, Mr Ross said that Israel and the Palestinians would resume security co-operation, which was suspended in March following the decision to build a new Jewish neighbourhood in east Jerusalem.

"I think we have a start at this point on the security relationship and we will look for the concrete results and we will be watching," he said.

Despite these developments, Palestinian leaders criticised Mr Ross's emphasis on security. Saeb Erekat, the Palestinian chief negotiator, said: "It is premature to jump to conclusions about the results of Mr Ross's mission. But we hope that all of us will be able to put the peace process back on track."

Mr Erekat's remarks underline the fact that Mr Ross has only been laying the groundwork for a trip later this

month by Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State. But before her visit, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is insisting that the Palestinian Authority takes serious action to fight terrorism. His security chiefs have provided the Palestinian Authority with a list of suspected terrorists and demanded their arrest.

"We are trying to verify that Yasser Arafat, fulfils the commitments he gave Israel to fight terrorism, crack down on the terrorist infrastructure, arrest the leaders, collect their guns and dismantle bomb factories," Mr Netanyahu said.

Israel has eased some of the restrictions on Palestinians, allowing truckloads of food into the territories and agricultural exports into the Jewish State. Mr Ross had criticised Israel for some of the security measures against the Palestinians which he said were counterproductive.

□ Nablous: Three officers from Yasser Arafat's elite Force 17 bodyguards were convicted of treason for spying for Israel. Fawzi Sawalha, 23, described as the ringleader, was sentenced to death. Khalidon Athamneh, 24, was sentenced to life in prison, and Taher Jamiljan, 22, to 15 years. (AP)



Ross: has made a start on security issues

New move to break Lockerbie stalemate

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Foreign Office confirmed yesterday that the Government is to look again at ways of breaking the stalemate over the demand for the extradition from Libya of the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing.

The move comes after a visit to Tripoli last week by two British politicians and the father of one of the victims. In two days of talks with senior Libyan ministers they were told that Colonel Gaddafi was ready to consider changes in his offer to send the two accused for trial in a third country, rather than America or Scotland as the West has insisted.

Lord Steel, former Liberal Democrat leader, Sir Cyril Townsend, former chairman of the Conservative parliamentary foreign affairs committee, and Dr Jim Swire, representing the victims of the

bombing, met Muhammad Swai, the Justice Minister, and Abdul Ali al-Obidi, a deputy foreign minister. They later briefed the Foreign Office and called the secret visit useful, but would not divulge details of the Libyan proposals.

The Foreign Office played down suggestions that the Government was softening its stance. A spokesman insisted that, after examining the documents, the Lord Advocate still believed there was strong evidence against Abdul Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, the suspects who have been kept under house arrest in Tripoli since November 1991.

The Foreign Office denied a suggestion by Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP who has long campaigned for a fresh approach to Libya, that Tony Blair was

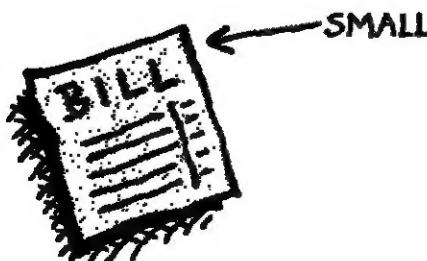
"uneasy" with the case against Libya. It said Mr Blair was uneasy with an impasse that has lasted more than eight years.

Britain has repeatedly rejected a trial in a third country, even using Scottish or UN sanctions against Libya were renewed last month, and Tony Lloyd, a junior Foreign Office Minister, told the families of victims that there was "no change of policy". But the Government is keeping a close watch on claims by an Iranian, convicted in Germany of killing a Kurdish dissident in Berlin, that the bombing of the Pan American plane that killed 270 people. "We are in touch with Bonn and are keeping an open mind," a spokesman said.

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Leading men at the White House

In recent years
Tinseltown has
become obsessed
with goings on
in Washington.

FROM GILES WHITFIELD
IN LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT Clinton's choice of Tom Hanks as his ideal actor to portray him in a film will come as no surprise to followers of the White House genre. Hanks is the James Stewart of his day — decent, honest and entirely admirable — and the President, an avid film fan, is acutely aware of Hollywood's power to shape public opinion.

"I know [Hanks] and respect him as a person and an actor," the President said in an interview with CBS yesterday. Yet in recent years Hollywood has become as obsessed with the White House as its current occupant is with Hollywood.

The trappings of power, from jumbo jets to nuclear weapons codes, have proved irresistible to a generation of film-makers freed by Watergate from an unwritten rule that once protected the presidency from cinematic parody. The result has been a series of performances that either upstage Mr Clinton, as in Bill Pullman's defence of the planet in *Independence Day*, or leave his office even more tarnished than in real life.

Hanks won the hearts of filmgoers and Oscar voters in *Philadelphia*, *Forrest Gump* and as commander of the ill-fated Apollo 13. "I would want somebody with a lot of range and human feeling," the President explained. Yet the latest celluloid President is known less for his range than for the kind of shoot-from-the-hip heroics Mr Clinton has seldom tried. Harrison Ford, in *Air Force One*, starts by discarding his notes for a speech in Moscow and vowing never to let "political" self-interest get in the way of what we know to be morally right.

Ford then singlehandedly overthrusts a band of hijackers aboard the presidential jet. For this he has been dubbed the "kick-ass President", and if reviews and the box office are any guide (£60 million in 16 days), he would be elected in a



Tom Hanks, left, Bill Clinton's favourite to portray him on film, posing with James Lovell, the former Apollo 13 astronaut. Other celluloid presidents: Harrison Ford, top right, as "the kick-ass" hit of *Air Force One*; Kevin Kline with Sigourney Weaver in *Dave*; and Bill Pullman, world saviour in *Independence Day*

heartbeat were he to run for office.

"Get off my plane!" — Ford's best line — is more inspiring, *Newsweek* says, than Mr Clinton's "I didn't inhale". Meanwhile, *Entertainment Weekly* gushed: the "butt-kicking executive decisions in *Air Force One* will make you stand up and cheer for democracy".

Hollywood's tradition of fantasy presidents began with *Being There* in 1979, an inglorious time in the history of the Oval Office. After the disgrace of Watergate and the mediocrity of President Ford and the early Carter years, Peter Sellers offered the alternative of an idiot savant in the White House, propelled there by his

simple wisdom acquired as a gardener.

Kevin Kline echoed Sellers' performance with *Dave* in 1994, playing an amateur presidential impersonator, finds that common sense and some straight talking enable him to conjure social justice from corrupt chaos.

In *The American President* (1995), Michael Douglas made ardour permissible in a President, as long as he was popular and widowed. The film, about the perils of presidential dating, offered a wry contrast to Washington gossip about Mr Clinton's alleged infidelities.

The recent *Absolute Power* started Gene Hackman as a chief executive drunk on lust.

He kills a lover by mistake during an episode of rough sex, and would have got away with it but for the inside knowledge of a cat burglar played by Clint Eastwood.

Oliver Stone's *Nixon*, made in 1995, came closer to the raw nerve-endings of the American political establishment. The film, in which Sir Anthony Hopkins played the villain of Watergate as a foul-mouthed and manipulative drunkard, was "paranoid and completely dishonest", the *National Review* railed.

Mr Clinton had no reason to take *Nixon* personally. The same cannot be said of *Primary Colors* now being produced from Joe Klein's bestselling novel based closely on the 1992

White House campaign by the then Governor of Arkansas. The book depicts Jack Stanton (a thinly-disguised Clinton) as a habitual and remorseless philanderer. In the film, Stanton is being played by John Travolta, who in recent stills from the set bears an uncanny likeness to the President.

Beyond the fringes of credibility, Jack Nicholson played a crazed President under attack from outer space in last year's *Mars Attacks*. It remains to be seen whether viewers will have to suspend disbelief in *Wag the Dog*, a forthcoming thriller starring Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro as handlers of a President in trouble over rumours that he molested a girl scout.



WORLD SUMMARY

Marriages 'give birth to misery'

New York: Married couples are at their unhappiest when they have children, according to an American sociologist (writes Tunku Varadarajan).

Mary Benin, a researcher at Arizona State University, says children bring parents little more than misery, gloom and depression. In a paper to be presented this week to the American Sociological Association, she reports on a study of 6,785 spouses. She says happiness invariably hits rock bottom when a child is in its teens. Couples do not recover until the children leave home.

Andes rescue bid

Rio de Janeiro: Rescue workers battled to get aid to at least 600 people who faced a fifth day trapped in vehicles in a snow-blocked mountain pass in the Peruvian Andes.

Fugitive held

Berlin: Torsten Reineck, fugitive owner of a houseboat in Miami Beach where Gianni Versace's alleged killer was found dead, has been held here on tax charges. (Reuters)

Jail house rock

Tegucigalpa: About 700 inmates, the entire population of two prisons — at Trujillo and Santa Barbara in northern Honduras — escaped using picks and iron bars. (AP)

Family lashed

Tel Aviv: The brother, sister and sister-in-law of a man sentenced to die today for murdering 11 women, are to receive 70 lashes each for not reporting his crimes. (AFP)

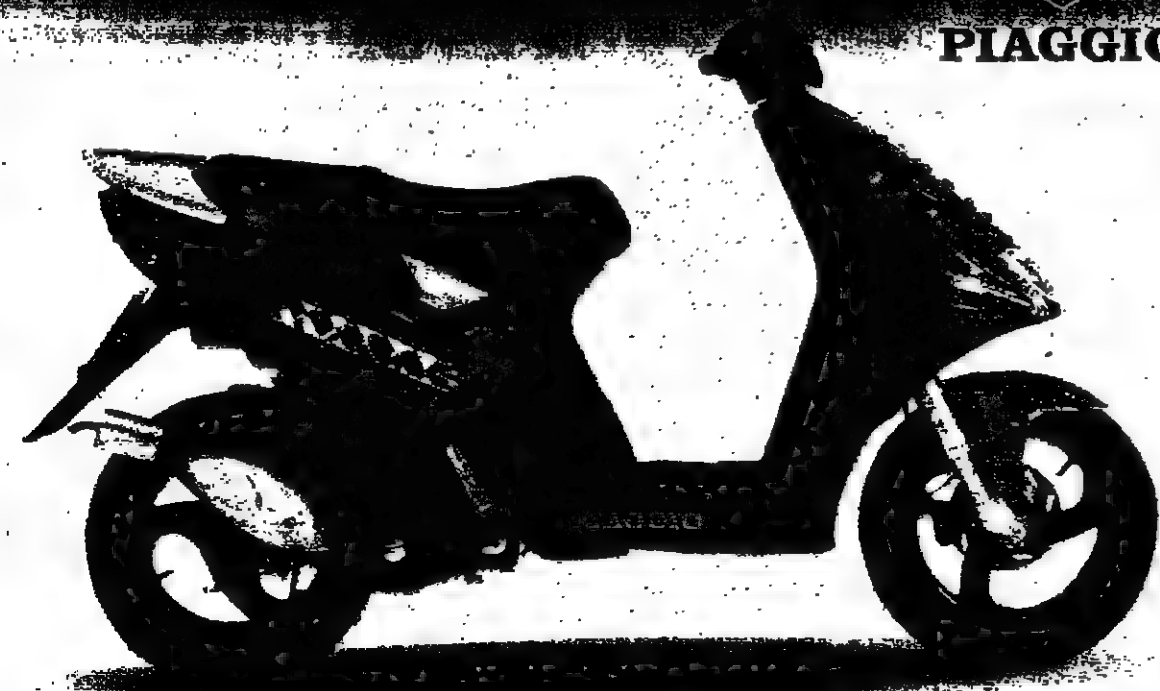
Prison shooting

Alma Ata: Two convicts shot dead eight people, including four policemen, in a jail break-out in Petropavlovsk in northern Kazakhstan, police said. One later killed himself. (AFP)

Star accused

Los Angeles: Christian Slater, 27, star of films such as *Broken Arrow* and *True Romance*, has been arrested for allegedly biting a man in the stomach during a brawl.

Win one of 7 scooters



This week *The Times* gives you the chance to win one of seven fabulous Piaggio scooters worth approximately £11,600 in total. Scooters are the 90s way to get about fast, safe, ideal for getting through traffic jams, as environmentally friendly as motorised wheels get, and they cost only about three pence a mile to run.

The Vespa, a recognised style icon, was first created 50 years ago and more than 15 million have been sold worldwide. Today we feature the NRG sports scooter, a new addition to the range, with an on the road price of £1,999.

The NRG comes with larger 13ins wheels, twin "fox-eye" headlamps, upside-down forks, rear spoiler and low profile tyres, all complementing the liquid-cooled 50cc engine. Fully automatic transmission allows the rider to

just twist-and-go. An additional attraction is a FREE insurance offer, valid until August 31, 1997. Other Piaggio scooter prizes on offer this week are: two Vespa ET2s; an ET4; a Liberty; a Zip SP (Sport Production) and a Hexagon 125cc.

HOW TO ENTER

Collect four tokens from *The Times* and send them with the entry form, appearing tomorrow, stating which scooter you would like to win. Closing date: Friday, September 12, 1997. Readers must be over 16 to enter.

For further information on the Piaggio range, call 0800 20 30 10



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† Source: Mifflin. Based on a UK savings account for investments of £2,500 and over, 10 years to 1.59%.

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Daytime _____ Evening _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Smoker ☐ Non-Smoker ☐

(Note: a non-smoker is a person who has not used any tobacco products in the last 12 months.)

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General Accident

Afghan allies prepare to take Kabul

Retreating Taliban poison wells and mine villagers' homes as Mujahidin drive fighters to outskirts of capital

FROM MICHAEL DYNES
IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF

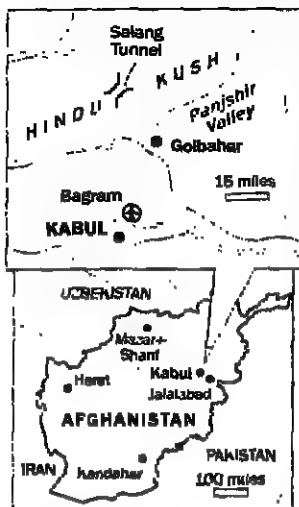
ABOUT 1,500 Mujahidin commanders gathered at the mouth of the Panjshir Valley yesterday to choose an interim government and hammer out their strategy for what they hope will be the final assault on the city of Kabul.

As General Ahmed Shah Masood, the former Government's defence chief, spelt out his plans to erect a security cordon around the city, men and military equipment poured into the Shomali Valley, north of Kabul, in anticipation of a big battle ahead.

General Masood, whose forces had withstood repeated air and ground bombardments launched by the messianic Taliban fighters, now commands unparalleled authority among the various factions that make up the anti-Taliban alliance.

The "northern alliance", made up of General Masood's Tajik fighters, the Uzbek warriors of General Abdul Malik, and the ethnic Shia militia of Karim Khalili, are quietly confident that they are at the beginning of the end of their struggle against the Islamic zealots.

This is not the first time the anti-Taliban alliance has claimed it is on the verge of victory. But they have been buoyed by their victories in the



past three months over the Taliban who have taken a terrible beating. Three weeks ago the "northern alliance" pushed the Taliban back to within 12 miles of Kabul. Now about 6,000 fighters of the alliance are positioned north of Kabul and are ready to launch a huge assault.

General Masood's forces are surprised by their easy victory in the Shomali Valley, which they recaptured for the second time in ten months.

That success fuelled exaggerated expectations of a storming of the gates of Kabul early last week.

The majority of the 200,000 inhabitants of the Shomali

Valley have abandoned their homes and farms for safer ground in the hills or far-flung villages. A few remain, tending their crops, despite periodic bombardment from Taliban rocket launchers.

Reports have already reached the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif about the scorched earth policy practised by the Taliban as they were chased into the hills north of Kabul.

People returning from the front line claim that Taliban fighters had thrown dead cows into wells to poison the water supply. A huge Chinese-built pumping station that helped to irrigate the entire plain was blown up. The Taliban have also mined the mud-brick homes of the civilian population, turning them into deadly bobby traps.

These actions have shocked Afghan villagers who have experienced many a horror during 18 years of constant war and civil war. The Taliban may have originally set out to win the hearts and minds of the people, but they now seem to be implementing the dictum of General William Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam: "Grab them by the balls and their hearts and minds will follow."

Red Crescent officials estimate that about 7,000 civilians



A guard watches over 1,600 Taliban prisoners of war at a camp in the Panjshir Valley. The Red Crescent has been denied access to the captives

and fighters have been wounded in fighting over the past three months. "The number of dead is anybody's guess," an official said. Reports here also suggest that General Masood may be orchestrating simultaneous

assaults on the Taliban-held cities of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, and Herat in the northwest of the country. But it is the prospect of bloody street battles for control of the capital that could lead to untold casualties.

Kabul: The Red Crescent said yesterday a flare-up in fighting in Afghanistan was causing the humanitarian situation to deteriorate. In a press communiqué released in Geneva, the organisation also criticised the "northern alliance" for denying it access to an estimated 3,000 prisoners of war. It said: "The ongoing fighting has prompted a major humanitarian alert."

Of the 7,000 war wounded on both sides of the front line that the Red Crescent has

treated in the past three months, an official in Afghanistan said: "We haven't had so many people wounded in a similar period over the last three years. There are clearly signs of an escalation in the conflict." (Reuters)

Cosmopolitan outpost thrives in nation torn by 18-year war

By MICHAEL DYNES

MACHINEGUN nests bristle from the rooftops of this dusty northern desert town. Home to some 600,000 mostly Uzbeks and Tajiks, it is the most cosmopolitan city in Afghanistan, north of the rugged Hindu Kush.

Running water, erratic electricity supply and thriving bazaars, well stocked with farm produce and cheap consumer goods, set it apart from the rest of Afghanistan, which has been laid waste by 18 years of unrelenting conflict.

The occasional burnt carcass of

a Taliban tank or armoured vehicle sits oddly amid rush-hour traffic of battered yellow taxis, donkey carts, herds of camels and goats, and Chinese-made bicycles. The relics of war serve as an eerie reminder of how close the bearded Taliban zealots came to seizing this city during three days of fierce fighting last May.

Although Mazar-i-Sharif may have escaped the worst ravages of the civil war, the conflict has taken its toll on the city and its inhabitants. The mud-walled buildings are in a state of chronic disrepair. Social services have all but disap-

Afghans boast that they have the best surgeons but pigeons fly around operating theatres

peared. There are a few tarred roads, but most are made from mud and gravel and are impassable during the rainy season. Taxes are still collected, but most of the revenue is siphoned off for the war effort. Public salaries are frozen at old levels. If they are paid at all, Afghans boast that after 18 years of war they have the best

surgeons in the world: but pigeons fly in and out of operating theatres. Inflation has sent prices soaring, and public amenities are nonexistent.

This is a city of mud and open sewage. Human effluent flows out of every house into the street. During winter, mud and faeces mix together to form a stinking

quagmire. In summer, the lethal concoction is dried by the sun, blown around by the wind, and settles on produce on offer at the market stalls. Little wonder that typhoid, dysentery and tuberculosis are rampant.

Women cocooned in burqas, the traditional, blue, tent-like covering worn by women in Afghanistan, dart around the streets like ghosts. The Muslim attitude to women in the north is more liberal than the version applied by the Taliban in the south. Women can walk around the city freely although they cannot drive. Their job is to

look after home and family while the men go off and fight.

The city is awash with officers of United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Crescent, and assorted non-governmental organisations — all dashing about in expensive, four-wheel-drive vehicles. Admittedly, they are a source of income for some of the more fortunate locals who get jobs with them.

But they are also a source of resentment. Many outside observers expressed surprise when UN offices were ransacked by locals during the fighting in May. The

fact that offices of the Children's Fund were looted by their own guards suggests that some old scores were being settled.

For the most part, inhabitants of the city display the traditional Afghan hospitality towards strangers. Ask how to locate a local address, and you will soon be surrounded by a crowd of people pointing in different directions. But if you break the 10pm curfew, you are likely to be confronted by a Mujahidin fighter showing a rocket-propelled grenade launcher in your face. It is an experience not to be repeated.

British lawyer holds key to fate of Singapore party

By DAVID WATTS

SINGAPORE will be the setting for an historic legal confrontation shortly when George Carman, QC, calls Lee Kuan Yew, a Cambridge law double first, to give evidence in a libel case that could bankrupt the leader of the country's Opposition.

On Mr Carman's skills will depend the political future of J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, the leader of the Workers' Party, and the viability of the only serious opposition to the rule of Mr Lee's People's Action Party, which has been in government since independence from Britain.

He will be fighting, too, what the Opposition calls the abuse of the Singapore legal system so that Mr Lee can support what he likes to think of as Asian values.

Such is the international concern over the case that senior legal observers from Australia and Paul Bentley, an Ontario judge representing Amnesty International, will be among those in the gallery.

Mr Jeyaretnam has been a particular bete noire of Mr Lee since he entered the Singapore parliament as the first Opposition member in 1981 — "I'm the gadfly. I keep asking questions," he said in an interview with *The Times*.



Jeyaretnam: amiable lawyer faces ruin

Mr Lee's Confucian mind-set brooks no such concept as a loyal Opposition, and he has lost no opportunity to discredit Mr Jeyaretnam, an amiable and inoffensive lawyer who got involved in politics less out of conviction than commitment to the memory of his late wife.

Mr Jeyaretnam is in no doubt about Mr Lee's motives: "He's out to bankrupt me, so that I have to give up my seat in parliament." Mr Jeyaretnam has grown wise after two previous legal jousts with the Senior Minister. He now owns nothing beyond a current bank account and will have nothing to yield to the

court should Mr Carman fail to turn the tide in his favour. Mr Lee, he says, is terrified of being questioned by Mr Carman: "He's very good at cross-examination."

The odds against him are formidable, with suits from Mr Lee, Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, two Deputy Prime Ministers, two ministers and five other government politicians.

Mr Jeyaretnam's case stems from the earlier experience of Tang Liang Hong, another Workers' Party MP, who is appealing against £3.75 million in damages awarded against him from an earlier series of suits from government ministers.

Mr Tang accuses the government of "rule by legal terrorism" and says the authorities have continued to use bizarre legal methods to trip him up including filing affidavits "several hundred pages long which then come to court sometimes in less than a day and before there has been any opportunity to consult legal counsel."

"They are using me as an example to teach other potential dissenters. In a democratic country you could never imagine this happening. These people have forfeited the moral authority to govern," Mr Tang said.

Gangsters kill Indian film mogul

FROM AFP
IN BOMBAY

AN INDIAN film tycoon was shot dead by Bombay underworld killers yesterday as he left a Hindu temple, police said.

The gunman fired 17 bullets at Gulshan Kumar from a taxi. Kumar, who was returning to his car after praying at the temple, was hit in the face, neck and chest.

He was a well-known figure in the Indian film industry, with an empire worth an estimated £130 million. It was the third attack on a film producer in the city in recent weeks.

Manohar Joshi, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra state, said the Bombay underworld "now seems to be targeting the film industry". He announced an investigation into links between the film world and organised crime.

Krishan Dev Shetty, general secretary of the Film Makers' Combine, an association of film producers, said the killing had created panic in the industry. "This is the work of extortionists," he said.

Gawahati: Tribal separatists killed 13 men in the state of Assam in a second day of violent incidents in the region ahead of India's independence celebrations. (AFP)

Iran Cabinet signals cautious reform

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Khatami of Iran, who won a surprise landslide victory on a platform of reform, yesterday attempted to avoid a showdown with hardliners by nominating a Cabinet that signalled a commitment to slow change.

However, at least two of his 22 appointments are expected to be fiercely resisted by the conservatives who dominate parliament, which is to begin vetting the Cabinet list.

The Cabinet list was keenly awaited as a sign of how independent the President will be of the conservatives. There were enough moderate faces to reassure supporters that he remains committed to social justice and the rule of law, while there were also uncontroversial choices for sensitive posts such as foreign affairs and defence, diplomats said. The energy, oil, industry and economic portfolios

went to technocrats, some of them educated in the US or Europe.

The most contentious appointment was Ayatollah Mohajeri to the influential portfolio of Culture and Islamic Guidance. He has pressed for more cultural freedoms and is still despised by hardliners for once advocating direct talks with the US.

Hardline deputies are also expected to oppose the appointment of Hojatoleslam Abdullah Nouri who, as Interior Minister, would be responsible for implementing Mr Khatami's pledges on easing some of the social restrictions of the past 18 years that have caused much disaffection. Hojatoleslam Nouri is regarded as subversively liberal by hardliners.

The President dropped as Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, a rather

door man who had been Iran's voice in world capitals since 1981. He was replaced by Kamal Kharrazi, the United Nations Ambassador. He is highly respected in Tehran and regarded as a safe pair of hands, although one hardline newspaper complained that he should be ruled out because he has spent too much time in America. He is not expected to introduce any important changes to foreign policy, a realm which is jealously guarded by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Also out is the senior Intelligence Minister, Ali Fallahian, who was held responsible in Western capitals for planning the assassination of dissidents in Europe. He was replaced by a relatively liberal and pragmatic cleric, Qorbanali Dorr Najafabadi.

Leading article, page 17

THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND

Week two of *The Times Challenge of the Mind* competition with £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. To coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

£500 AWARI PROBLEM by Paul Lamford

Today's puzzle is based on Awari, often called simply Wari, which is a member of the large group of games of the Mancala family which involve sowing seeds from one cup into others. There are almost as many types of Mancala as there are card games and they include Congklak, from Indonesia, Gabara, from Ethiopia and Kiarabu from east and south Africa. The version being played in the Mind Sports Olympiad is Awari, which has two rows of six cups as in our diagram. The game starts with four shells, or seeds, in each of the 12 cups. Play alternates and consists of one player taking the contents of one cup on his side of the board and sowing one seed at a time, always anti-clockwise, into each of the following cups. Thus, in our

diagram, if the player at the top of the board is to play, he could take all four seeds from cup 12 and drop one into each of the cups 1, 2, 3 and 4. The object of the game is to capture more seeds than your opponent. Seeds are captured if the last seed dropped into a cup on the opponent's side produces a total of two or three seeds in that cup. In this case those seeds are removed, as are any immediately previous cups which then contain two or three seeds. Thus, in our example move above, the player taking four seeds from cup 12

would capture two stones in cup four, but no others. You may not capture all the seeds on your opponent's side. Occasionally, when there are more than 11 seeds in a cup, you sow all the way around the board, in which case you miss out the cup from which you started and continue sowing.

In today's problem, the player on the south-side of the board is to move. How can he capture the maximum number of seeds?

Does he start sowing from:

- a) cup 3?
- b) cup 5?
- c) cup 6?

Call our hotline 0891 102 724 (ex UK plus 44 990 200 618) before midnight tonight with your answer, a, b, or c. The winner will get £500. Three runners-up will receive a £50 voucher, donated by Hamleys toy shop for use in its Regent Street or Covent Garden, London, stores. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received and the answer will be published on Friday.

Normal competition rules apply.

There's £100 to be won today with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Call 0891 102 725 (ex UK +44 990 200 619), 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

All readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

*Paul Lamford is a former editor of *Games and Puzzles* magazine and is currently commissioning editor of chess and bridge for Batsford Books.

DAY 6 (SATURDAY) SOLUTIONS.

LINE OF ACTION. Answer b is correct. Black should play c7-c5, capturing the white checker. Black then has two threats: to play c4-d1, making a connected group; or to play c1-b2 making a connected group. There is no defence for White as he has no capture that breaks the chain. White was threatening to win himself with h7-h4, so Black had to act quickly. Patrick Chisholm-Lilley, of Diss, Norfolk, wins £500. **MENSA PROBLEM:** 1. b2-c3; 2. b4-c5; 3. b5-c6; 4. b6-c7; 5. b7-c8; 6. b8-c9; 7. b9-c10; 8. b10-c11; 9. b11-c12; 10. b12-c13; 11. b13-c14; 12. b14-c15; 13. b15-c16; 14. b16-c17; 15. b17-c18; 16. b18-c19; 17. b19-c20; 18. b20-c21; 19. b21-c22; 20. b22-c23; 21. b23-c24; 22. b24-c25; 23. b25-c26; 24. b26-c27; 25. b27-c28; 26. b28-c29; 27. b29-c30; 28. b30-c31; 29. b31-c32; 30. b32-c33; 31. b33-c34; 32. b34-c35; 33. b35-c36; 34. b36-c37; 35. b37-c38; 36. b38-c39; 37. b39-c40; 38. b40-c41; 39. b41-c42; 40. b42-c43; 41. b43-c44; 42. b44-c45; 43. b45-c46; 44. b46-c47; 45. b47-c48; 46. b48-c49; 47. b49-c50; 48. b50-c51; 49. b51-c52; 50. b52-c53; 51. b53-c54; 52. b54-c55; 53. b55-c56; 54. b56-c57; 55. b57-c58; 56. b58-c59; 57. b59-c60; 58. b60-c61; 59. b61-c62; 60. b62-c63; 61. b63-c64; 62. b64-c65; 63. b65-c66; 64. b66-c67; 65. b67-c68; 66. b68-c69; 67. b69-c70; 68. b70-c71; 69. b71-c72; 70. b72-c73; 71. b73-c74; 72. b74-c75; 73. b75-c76; 74. b76-c77; 75. b77-c78; 76. b78-c79; 77. b79-c80; 78. b80-c81; 79. b81-c82; 80. b82-c83; 81. b83-c84; 82. b84-c85; 83. b85-c86; 84. b86-c87; 85. b87-c88; 86. b88-c89; 87. b89-c90; 88. b90-c91; 89. b91-c92; 90. b92-c93; 91. b93-c94; 92. b94-c95; 93. b95-c96; 94. b96-c97; 95. b97-c98; 96. b98-c99; 97. b99-c100; 98. b100-c101; 99. b101-c102; 100. b102-c103; 101. b103-c104; 102. b104-c105; 103. b105-c106; 104. b106-c107; 105. b107-c108; 106. b108-c109; 107. b109-c110; 108. b110-c111; 109. b111-c112; 110. b112-c113; 111. b113-c114; 112. b114-c115; 113. b115-c116; 114. b116-c117; 115. b117-c118; 116. b118-c119; 117. b119-c120; 118. b120-c121; 119. b121-c122; 120. b122-c123; 121. b123-c124; 122. b124-c125; 123. b125-c126; 124. b126-c127; 125. b127-c128; 126. b128-c129; 127. b129-c130; 128. b130-c131; 129. b131-c132; 130. b132-c133; 131. b133-c134; 132. b134-c135; 133. b135-c136; 134. b136-c137; 135. b137-c138; 136. b138-c139; 137. b139-c140; 138. b140-c141; 139. b141-c142; 140. b142-c143; 141. b143-c144; 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205. b207-c208; 206. b208-c209; 207. b209-c210; 208. b210-c211; 209. b211-c212; 210. b212-c213; 211. b213-c214; 212. b214-c215; 213. b215-c216; 214. b216-c217; 215. b217-c218; 216. b218-c219; 217. b219-c220; 218. b220-c221; 219. b221-c222; 220. b222-c223; 221. b223-c224; 222. b224-c225; 223. b225-c226; 224. b226-c227; 225. b227-c228; 226. b228-c229; 227. b229-c230; 228. b230-c231; 229. b231-c232; 230. b232-c233; 231. b233-c234; 232. b234-c235; 233. b235-c236; 234. b236-c237; 235. b237-c238; 236. b238-c239; 237. b239-c240; 238. b240-c241; 239. b241-c242; 240. b242-c243; 241. b243-c244; 242. b244-c245; 243. b245-c246; 244. b246-c247; 245. b247-c248; 246. b248-c249; 247. b249-c250; 248. b250-c251; 249. b251-c252; 250. b252-c253; 251. b253-c254; 252. b254-c255; 253. b255-c256; 254. b256-c257; 255. b257-c258; 256. b258-c259; 257. b259-c260; 258. b260-c261; 259. b261-c262; 260. b262-c263; 261. b263-c264; 262. b264-c265; 263. b265-c266; 264. b266-c267; 265. b267-c268; 266. b268-c269; 267. b269-c270; 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Blair family holiday drags sleepy village into the limelight

THE two hundred inhabitants of this sleepy village south of Toulouse, who for the past four years have kept Tony Blair's French holiday refuge discreetly hidden, yesterday woke up to find themselves famous and their cover blown.

"Yes, my children play with Mr Blair's children," said Gilbert Bouchet, the village carpenter and joiner who doubles as caretaker at the nearby 12th-century chateau where the Blairs are expected to arrive this weekend after spending two weeks in Tuscany.

M Bouchet seemed bemused and amused by the sudden limelight, as television cameramen filmed him, the village sweep and a lone tractor carrying hay. Nothing much moves in Saint Martin d'Oydes, particularly in the heat of an August day. The little post office by the medieval church of St

Anastase closes at midday on the dot. There is a village shop, but no cafe, bar or restaurant. The deep silence is broken only by the chime of the church bell.

"Mr Blair walks to the shop to buy bread," M Bouchet said. "Otherwise the family read and swim." M Bouchet's son Nicolas, 15, posed for the cameras on his mountain bike, informing the world that the Blair children — Nicholas, Euan and Kathryn — speak some French, so that although he speaks no English, they play together. "They have not changed since they became the children of the British Prime Minister," he said.

Paul Esquirol, who runs the shop, said his phone had not stopped ringing since the news of the Blairs' imminent arrival broke. "We are suddenly on the map," he said. The chateau belongs to Sir



In tranquil Saint Martin d'Oydes the Prime Minister's summer visit is being hailed as the biggest thing since the Black Death, writes Richard Owen

David Keene, a High Court judge who is part of the Blairs' inner circle of legal friends. Sir David, according to the villagers, "is travelling in Africa" and is not expected back until September. Officials in Paris confirmed that Mr Blair would meet Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister — whose constituency is near by in Cingetabelle — next week.

The Blairs are in the second and final week of their holiday on the ten-acre estate of Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in the Tuscan hills near San Gimignano,

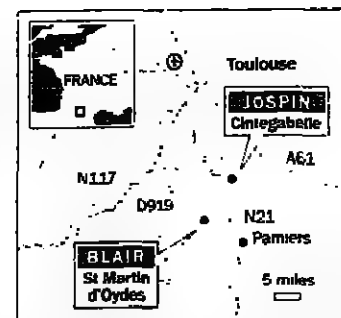
where they first went last summer. Clearly Mr Blair is drawn to the south — although the Arriege, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, is flatter and not as lush as Chianti, with Tuscany's cypresses and olive groves giving way to dusty avenues of plane trees.

This is La France Profonde, with endless fields of wheat and sunflowers punctuated by buildings of red brick and roof tiles. The rambling three-storey Keene villa, which dominates the main village street, is built in the same local style, with a turret at either end. A

high wall fails to hide the house and 45-foot swimming pool. The area is popular with British, Dutch and German tourists.

"I would have thought there was a security problem here for the Prime Minister," said Bruce Anderson, a business consultant from Downe, Kent, who is renting the chateau at the moment with two other families. "The telephone engineers have been in to install extra lines, but we haven't seen any sign of the police or the security services yet."

Unlike in Tuscany, the French highway does not have a tennis court. But there is a games room in case of wet weather — the area was deluged this week — and a video and satellite television (the dish sprouts incongruously from one of the turrets). There are four bedrooms, including a children's dormitory, and a large farmhouse



kitchen with flagstones and a giant oak refectory table. The current tenants, who rented the house through an agency and are not personal friends of Sir David, were not told that Mr Blair and his family were arriving next.

"We heard about it from the cook," Mr Anderson said. "Our wives tossed a coin to decide which couple would have the master

bedroom. My wife won. As it happens she's called Pamela, and we're thinking of selling her story to the tabloids, along the lines of 'Pamela Anderson's torrid romps in Tony Blair's bed'."

There is also a library, well stocked with the latest biographies and novels. Guests are required to sign books out and return them, and several have Cherie Blair's signature in the flyleaf from previous visits.

"You need the library because there is nothing else to do here," said Graham Burrill, a retired insurance broker who is also staying at the chateau. "This village is like the *May Celeste*. It would be a big event when the traffic lights changed, except that there aren't any traffic lights. Tony Blair's visit is the biggest thing around here since the Black Death."

GREGORY DUNN / REUTER

Tobacco firms find new haven

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

Marlboro Man may be riding into the sunset in the United States and Western Europe but here, in one of the last chain-smoking oases in the world, he is sitting high in the saddle.

Poland, the rest of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have become the growth area for tobacco companies such as Philip Morris, British-American Tobacco and RJ Reynolds which are buying up factories and energetically marketing tobacco.

World Tobacco File, which monitors global smoking patterns, says that while cigarette sales dropped by 4.5 per cent in the US and Canada between 1990 and 1995, and by 1.7 per cent in Western Europe, they soared by 5.6 per cent in the post-Communist world.

There is, however, a fightback by fledgling anti-smoking lobbyists who point to the very high incidence of cancer in Eastern Europe. Marlboro Man and Joe Camel figure prominently on the billboards around Warsaw central station, but so do the health warnings.

According to a new anti-smoking law in Poland, the health warnings will have to cover 30 per cent of the cigarette packaging by the end of the year (compared to about 6 per cent in Western Europe) and 20 per cent of billboards. Poland, in other words, is trying to move quickly towards the US prohibition regime.

Smoking in institutions or public buildings has been banned and the campaigners want to push through a ban on smoking while driving.

But there is a big gap in Eastern Europe between the legislation and smoking practice. In Warsaw hospitals, patients gather in stairwells to puff and doctors rank among the most dedicated smokers. "Nobody enforces the ban," says Iwona Eysmont, a consular assistant who smokes a packet a day.

However, the key factor in the rise in smoking has been the scale of the involvement by tobacco companies. More than \$3 billion (£1.9 billion) has been spent by Western tobacco companies in the region over the past six years.

Ex-bodyguard wins fight to 'expose' Yeltsin

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's former bodyguard yesterday claimed victory in a year-long battle with the Kremlin when he announced the publication of his memoirs that are likely to embarrass the Russian leader and many key figures in his administration.

Aleksandr Kozhakov, who for more than a decade was the Kremlin leader's closest confidant before his sacking last year, said that the authorities had tried bribes and threats to block the book *Boris Yeltsin: From Dawn to Dusk*, which is out today. "I believe that the people should know the people who rule them," said the burly former KGB agent, who for five years was regarded as the second most powerful man in the Kremlin.

The book portrays Yeltsin as a person, and not as a figure behind a mask. Despite his declared noble ideals, the book seems largely motivated by revenge. The two men's relationship was destroyed last year after Mr Yeltsin ignored Mr Kozhakov's advice to cancel presidential elections and then sacked him in a Kremlin power struggle. Yesterday the former bodyguard described his relationship with Mr Yeltsin as "a divorce, final and irrevocable".

After Mr Yeltsin reads the 500-page book, divorce may be

putting it mildly. In page after page Mr Kozhakov describes his former employer as mentally unstable, and at times suicidal, an alcoholic who allowed Russia's key reform period to be hijacked by a corrupt bureaucracy and a criminal business class.

For the first time, the author sets out plausible versions for the bizarre events in 1994. He writes that Mr Yeltsin was unable to attend an official ceremony at Shannon airport because he had suffered a heart seizure or stroke on the flight over from America. He also gives a detailed account of the incident earlier that year in Germany when Mr Yeltsin seized the baton from the hand of a German military conductor and began to conduct the band at a ceremony for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Berlin.

He also attacks Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter and adviser, who was instrumental in Mr Kozhakov's removal from power. Describing Mrs Dyachenko as a "bit of fluff", he alleges that she was duped into her role by scheming Kremlin courtiers, in particular Anatoli Chubais, the deputy Prime Minister, and Boris Berezovsky, the billionaire and deputy head of the security council.

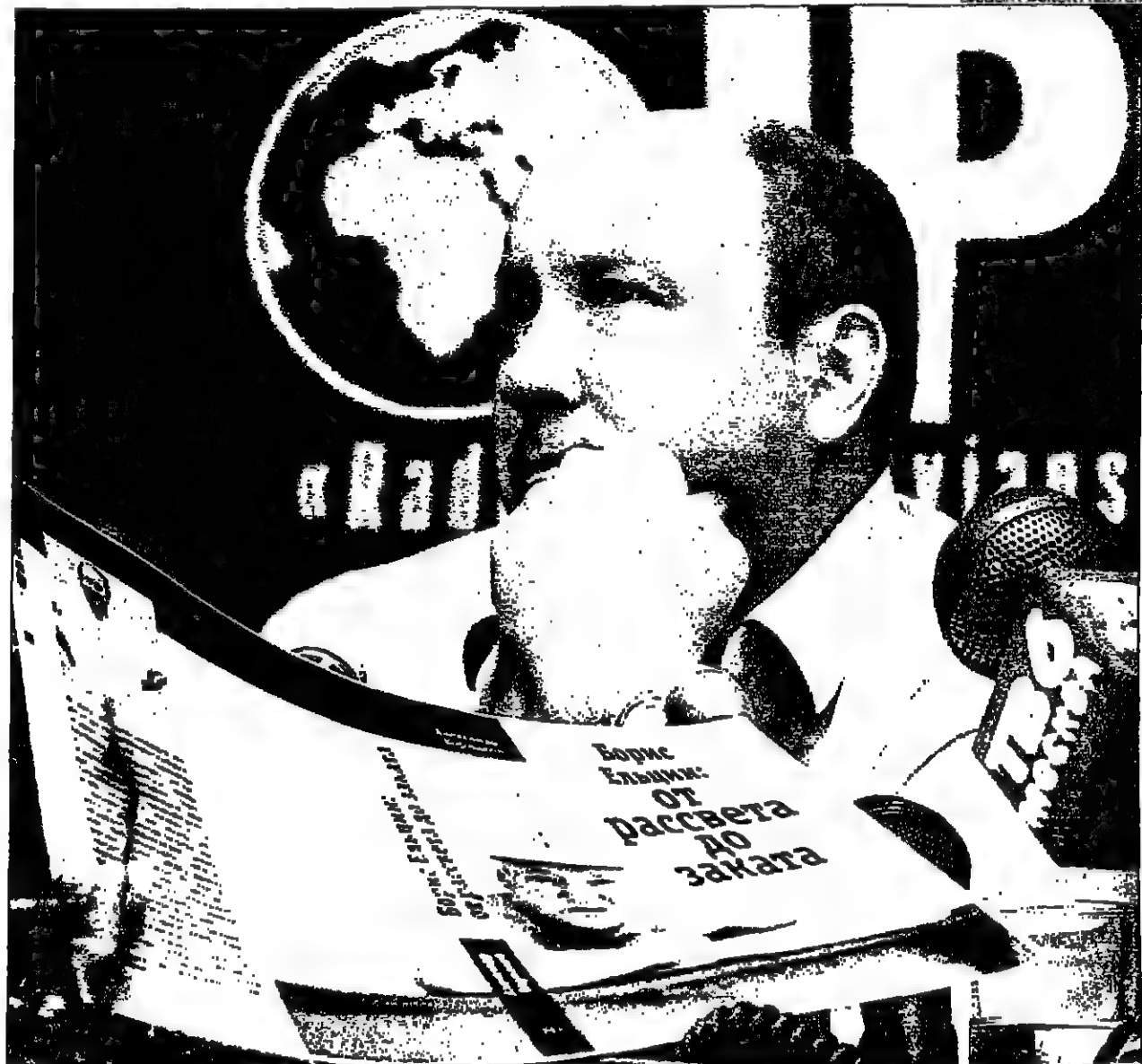
Mr Kozhakov claims that

on one occasion Mr Berezovsky discussed murdering Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, to prevent his presidential ambitions and also talked of killing the mayor's allies, media magnate Vladimir Gusinsky and the singer Iosif Kobzon.

He also takes a swipe at Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whom he alleges secretly collected 1,500,000 signatures ahead of last year's presidential elections, in case the Russian leader did not survive to polling day and the premier could put forward his candidacy instead.

The impact of Mr Kozhakov's book, which is due to have an initial print run of 150,000, is unlikely seriously to threaten the Russian leadership. Most of the events contained in the book occurred several years ago, and many of the allegations must be viewed with scepticism, since Mr Kozhakov was himself one of the most notorious figures to emerge from the Yeltsin Kremlin.

Nevertheless, senior Kremlin sources said yesterday that the book would not go unnoticed. "These two men were very good friends, and it still hurts the President to hear these allegations made by someone so close to him for so long."



Aleksei Korzhakov, displays the dust jacket of his book *Boris Yeltsin: From Dawn to Dusk*, which is published today. The book portrays the Russian President as suicidal, unstable and an alcoholic

Karadzic 'refused US aid to evade war crimes net'

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BILJANA PLAVSIC, the president of Republika Srpska, has disclosed that she and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had tried to enable Radovan Karadzic, indicted as a war criminal, to leave Serb territory for a third country.

In a rare interview, Mrs Plavsic said the plan, hatched in June, failed because Dr Karadzic refused point blank. As a result, she is involved in a power struggle with her former mentor.

"I thought it was reasonable," she said. "He is rather young and he has a family. This is the best solution. Bring him in a situation where he has a chance once more. But he refused that. In two weeks



Plavsic power struggle with former mentor

they [the Americans] expected me to be able to say that Dr Karadzic has left. I don't know where he is. But the last time I explained this to him he was full of animosity towards me. I'm really sorry that he lost this chance."

Mrs Plavsic said she did not know where Dr Karadzic would have taken refuge but the fact that the America might have allowed him to escape shows its desire to see him removed from Republika Srpska.

One American diplomatic source in Bosnia said recently that he believed the Karadzic family had already been secretly moved to Russia. Dr Karadzic popped up again last week with an interview in a German newspaper, and for the moment he still controls Bosnian Serb politics and economics through his clandestine police and smuggling rings run from Pale.

Mrs Plavsic wants to be rid of Dr Karadzic but cannot support his removal by Nato to a tribunal she does not accept. Her way out of this conundrum is to say that she backs the Dayton peace accord — which stipulates that all suspected war criminals be taken to The Hague — but that

she is bound by the Republika Srpska constitution, which prohibits extradition. With her own future so precarious, Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, did not mention the subject on his recent visit to Banja Luka. "I was really grateful," she said.

Mrs Plavsic's views on ethnic reintegration are coloured by her former career as biology professor at Sarajevo university. "If rules in society are not well co-ordinated with biological rules then you have a small chance to function," she said.

"[Bosnian] Muslims are by origin Christians. They are not coming from Turkey or the Arabian countries. If you have leaders who want to be included in the Islamic world but the roots are somewhere else then you have the basis for confusion." An Orthodox cross glinted on her pink dress.

Despite these views, which earned her a reputation during the war as a champion of ethnic cleansing, Mrs Plavsic insists that tolerance remains possible in Republika Srpska. "It's going to be multi-ethnic in the way of England or Germany. Nobody thinks it is a territory only for the Serbs," she said.

She angrily rejected United Nations statistics which suggest Serb refugees are more likely to return to the Muslim-Croat Federation than Muslim refugees are to Republika Srpska. "You are completely wrong. Serbs do not like going to the federation. Maybe they are going there to sell their property. I would say more Muslims like to come here than Serbs go to the federation."

Mrs Plavsic claimed that before the war "I had more friends who were Muslim than Serbs". Eventually, she added, the Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka, razed in 1994, might be rebuilt.

1997 'Top Direct Lender Over Two Years' - What Mortgage Magazine.

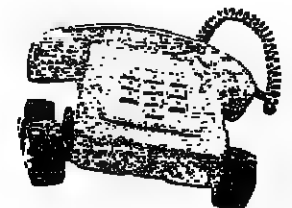
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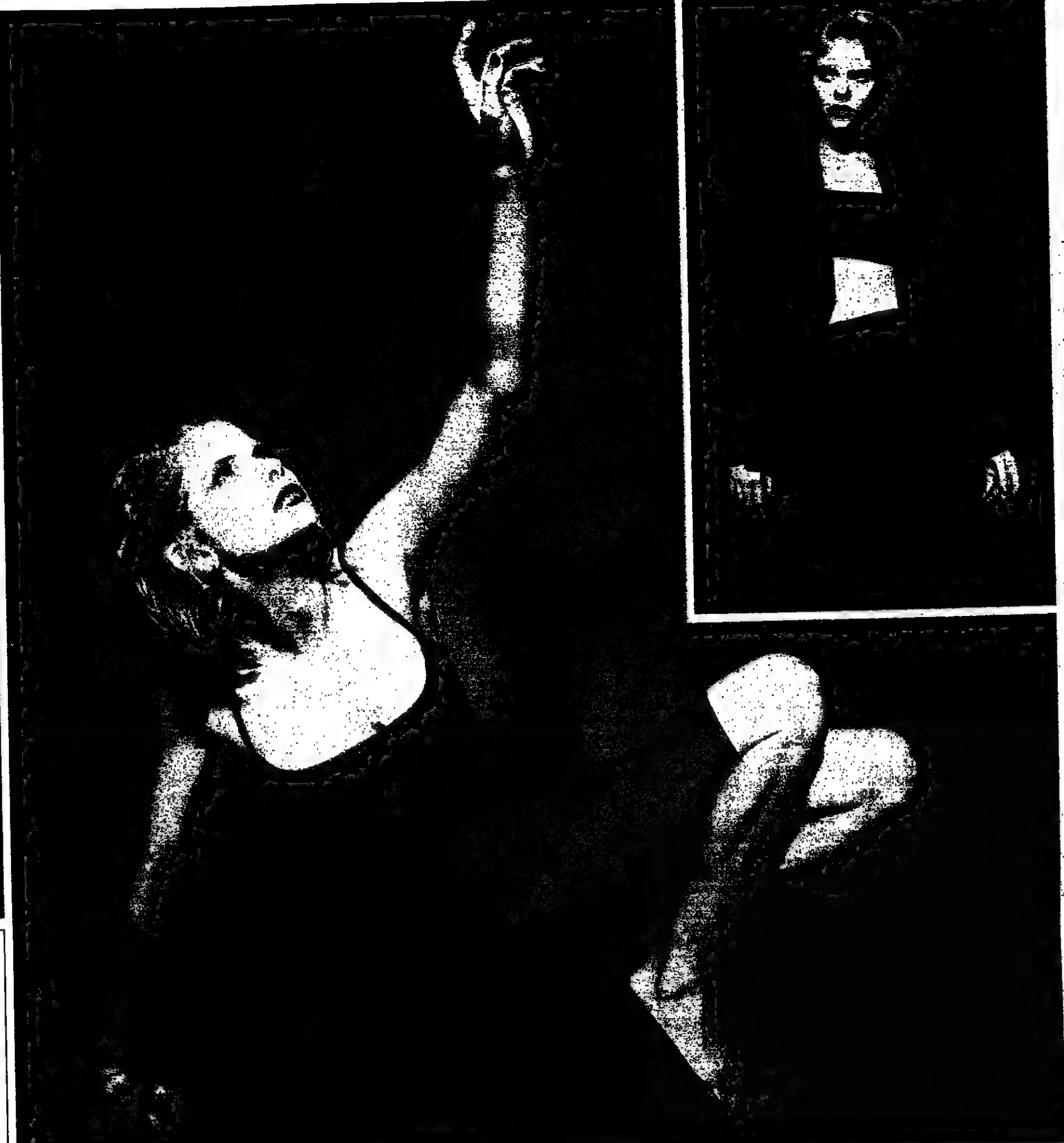
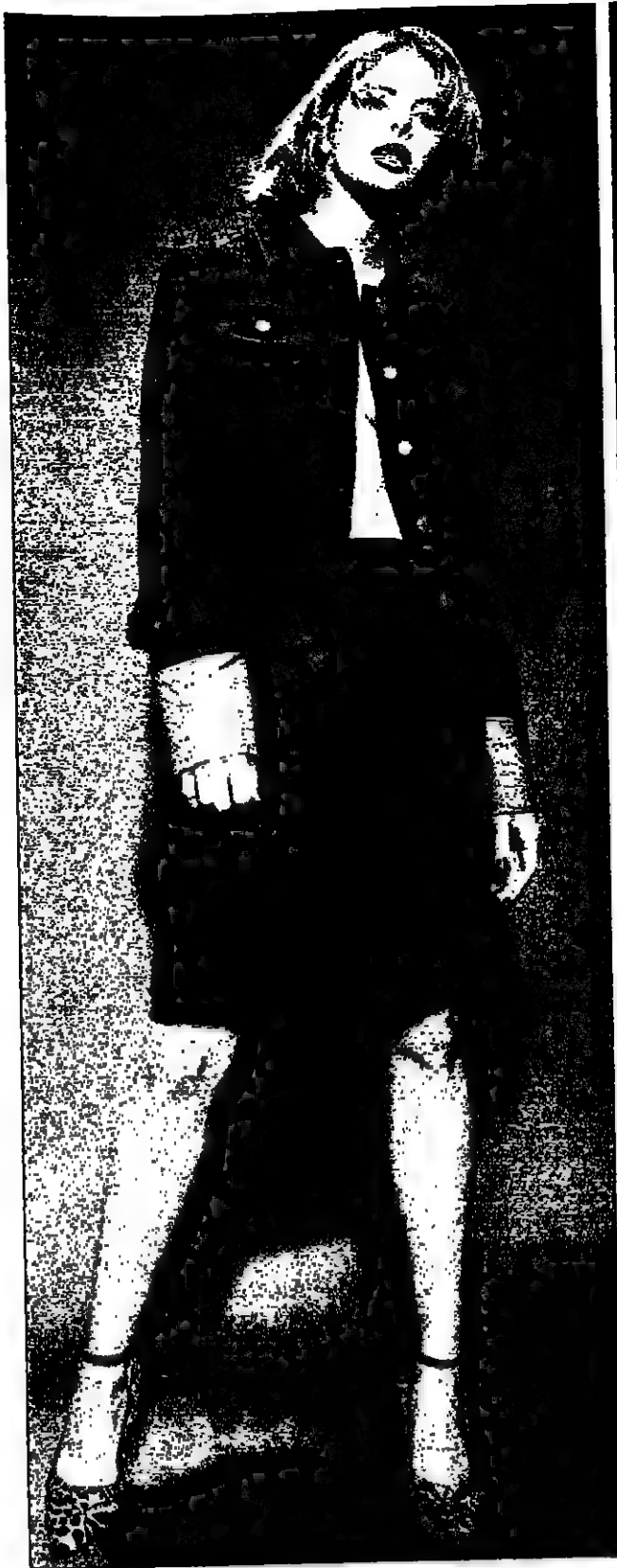
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The rebirth of the blues



LEFT: Indigo denim jacket with turn-up sleeves, £150, and matching skirt, £80, by Helmut Lang at Browns Focus, 38/39 South Molton Street, London W1. Animal-print ankle strap shoes, £250, by Insolito at Russell & Bromley, 24/25 New Bond Street, London W1. Earrings from a selection at Detail, 4a Symonds Street, London SW1. ABOVE: Lace vest, £20, and denim skirt, £40, both by Warehouse. Red python court shoes, £236 by Gina, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1. INSET: Indigo denim one-button jacket, £288 by Clements Ribeiro at Liberty, Regent Street, London W1. Denim A-line skirt, £24.99 and stretch leatherette bustier, £24.99 both by Oasis, 292 Regent Street, London W1. Photographer: TIM WHITE; Stylist: Nicola Goldie; Hair: Matthew Wade at The Industry; Make-up: Daniel Sandler for Nars; Model: Cherry at Select

TAILOR

The ultimate issue of the ultimate magazine

OUT NOW

Tragic fall for the hot hipster

I hardly seems the moment, really, to be thinking about tweeds — in the middle of the dog days of August, that parched, enervating month when hardened radio presenters say to weather forecasters, as John Humphrys did this week, "This is hell. Tell us when it is going to stop."

Still, since yesterday, the feathered bodies have been thudding on to the grouse moors, and you may be sure that the guns were not clad in sweet-pea florals with lingerie straps. It may still be steamy in the city, but autumn is on its way, with a snap in the air in the mornings and the arrival in the shops of the winter collections.



JANE SHILLING GETS DRESSED

For those of us in the town, the seasons are measured out in flirty skirts for spring, and power-shouldered autumn *tailleurs*. Right now, the shops look as bedraggled as a late-summer herbaceous border, all drooping linen and wilting crêpe de Chine going grey from being fingered by eager sales shoppers. The sales, of course, bring their own little surge of excitement,

but I've done that, and now I'm ready for something new. Impossible as it may be in these temperatures to imagine actually walking about in double-knit heliotrope chenille or smoke-grey cashmere suiting, there is still a frisson to be had from the sight of it hanging in crisp rows on the shop rails. There is something about the sugary reek of new fabric that affects fashion

victims in much the same way that the smell of cordite is supposed to affect old warhorses. And then there is that exhilarating feeling of On To The Next Thing.

In the fashion magazines, The Next Thing is delivered with a bracingly punitive spin. Reading them is a chastening experience. *Tailor's* list of things I will be wanting to get rid of if I wish to retain any fashion credibility includes every single staple in my wardrobe.

The sexy little kitten heels are destined for the bin; so is the pencil skirt and card uniform into which I gratefully fall on every working morning. I remain unmoved by the advice to put into mothballs the "black nylon Prada bag" — which, in my case I have not got — but the really, really terrible news is that bootleg hipsters have also had it. I can't believe it.

After countless attempts to clear this particular fence, staring at myself in the fitting-room mirror and thinking *Oh no, I can't*, I have finally bought myself a pair of bootleg hipsters. I haven't even worn them yet, and now I am told I must consign them to the attic until they come round again. At which point I shall no doubt be accessorising them with Gucci Zimmerman and Armani bifocals.

So what am I going to be wearing this winter? A stout tweed coat just like my grandma used to wear, teamed, as she would probably not have thought of doing, with a leopard-print nightie, a little black leather skirt the size of a pocket handkerchief, and a matted, egg-yellow fun-fur inspired, it is claimed, by Big Bird of *Sesame Street*. Oh no, you can't. Oh, but I can. Watch me.

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THE BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint from Mrs Lavinia Greenbaum — summary of adjudication.

On 24 April 1996 the BBC programme "Hearts of Gold" contained an item about Mrs Joan Brander and her role in the Winged Fellowship Trust. Mrs Greenbaum, who did not appear in the programme, complained to the Commission that the programme had been unjust and unfair to her as it failed to make it clear that she had been the founder of the Winged Fellowship voluntary organisation, which preceded the establishment of the Winged Fellowship Trust, a registered charity.

The Commission considers that some unfairness resulted from the programme-makers' failure to take sufficient account of information supplied by Mrs Greenbaum and of research material, which had included a brief but accurate account of Mrs Greenbaum's role in the early days of the Winged Fellowship as opposed to the Winged Fellowship Trust. As a result the programme failed to draw a sufficiently clear distinction between the Trust and the voluntary organisation which had preceded it. Despite the insertion of a commentary, intended to correct any misleading impression, the resulting statement was contradictory.

The Commission considers that viewers who did not have detailed knowledge of the two organisations would have wrongly supposed that the Winged Fellowship had been founded by Mrs Brander.

While the Commission accepts that the most substantial of the inaccuracies contained in the item were not of the BBC's making, it nonetheless considers that greater account should have been taken of the strong possibility that the inaccuracies in the item would have had the effect of erasing from the record the pioneering contributions of Mrs Greenbaum and others to the foundation of the Winged Fellowship. While the Commission does not consider that the item was as damaging to the reputation of Mrs Greenbaum and her co-volunteers as she understandably felt it to be, they find that there were some elements of unfairness in the item.

Accordingly, the complaint of unfair or unjust treatment is upheld.

You may obtain a copy of the Commission's complete adjudication by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Standards Commission (F) 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.

I have ways go even. It's so therapeutic

With the right attitude you can work miracles

'I have always got even. It's so therapeutic'

Philip Seldon always gains revenge — and shows others how. Barry Wigmore reports

When Philip Seldon was a small and skinny schoolboy, he was the child all the others picked on. A callow youth with buck teeth, in the playground he was bullied. In love, he was laughed at.

Philip started leaving embarrassing notes, forged in his adversarial handwriting and signed with their names so the teacher would find them. Young Philip soon discovered what he believes to be an inarguable fact of life: revenge is sweet.

He moved on to more cunning plays. As a teenager he would report, anonymously, foes who crossed him to the police for traffic violations, such as lights not working on their cars. He knew the lights did not work because he had removed the bulbs.

Seldon has been getting even ever since. In fact he has made a mini-career of it. Now he lectures on the subject in the world's biggest battleground for getting even — New York. There is no shortage of willing disciples wishing to take evening classes and learn from his experiences.

From dumped spouses to angry mothers-in-law and sacked workers, they queue to attend his high altar of revenge. Some of them, and the lessons he teaches, can be seen on *Inside Story* tonight on BBC1.

There is a difference, though, between the desire for vengeance and the desire for a boyfriend who has all the signs of a real

life *Fatal Attraction*. There is Martha who was given ten minutes to clear her desk after 26 years in the same job.

And there is Donna who wants to get even with the man who created a "beautiful fantasy of a marriage" then walked out, leaving only a message on her answering machine. Donna has already burnt £100,000 in computer equipment belonging to her ex, and is eager to learn more tactics.

"I wouldn't advise anything destructive like that," cautions Seldon. "That might be illegal, although it could be argued that the computers were joint property. You must stay within the law." What he does advise can be seen on tonight's programme, he says. "But," he adds, "I have heard that my plays work and people feel much better as a result."

Seldon, 56, masterminds his get-even classes from the Manhattan apartment which is also his office. He gives his lectures at local private colleges.

"I have always got even," he says. "It's so therapeutic. How else are you going to sleep at night when someone has hurt you? It's also really quite simple. You look for the weakness. Everybody has one. You plot and you move."

"Getting even is not just an American dream, of course. There have been spectacular acts of revenge in Britain. Like Lady Moore who smashed the arms of her husband's 32 Savile Row suits,



"The important thing is not to think too small. Generally speaking, the grander the scheme, the more satisfying the result. No sting is too ambitious — especially if it works"

poured six litres of white paint all over his BMW and distributed his 70 bottles of vintage wine to neighbourhood doorsteps. And Sandy Gall's wife, Eleanor, who dumped his golfclubs, suits and expensive wine outside his mistress's front door.

Seldon admires that play. "The important thing is not to think too small," he says. "Generally speaking, the grander the scheme, the more satisfying the result. No sting is too ambitious — especially when it works."

And he should know. In his other life, Seldon is a wine writer and publisher. At the height of public interest in men on the Moon and

the space programme, he remembers, a group of NASA men approached him to write a book with them — the inside story of a moon shot.

One was a public relations officer with NASA, the others said that they were scientists. What he did not know for some time was that they were all claiming to be considerably more important than they were. And they had signed the American equivalent of the Official Secrets Act, which said that no one could write a book without authority, and no individual could claim credit for the team effort.

Seldon wasted months, and money, on research before he

discovered the truth. Then he wreaked revenge in the simplest, most efficient way he knows. By fax.

"I obtained some NASA letter-headed paper and sent out a press release by fax to the news agencies and wire services, which they circulated to hundreds of newspapers," he recalls. "It credited these men by name as being responsible for some spectacular photographs that had been taken, and gave their boss's names and phone numbers for follow-up questions."

Their bosses were swamped with calls and there was all hell to pay," he recounts with satisfaction. "No matter how much they denied

it no one believed that they had not sent out that release."

Then there was the time Seldon was sacked for no apparent reason. In an elaborate sting he hired a friend, a freelance writer who was already happy with the work he was doing, to apply for the vacancy. Having got the job, the friend messed things up in spectacular fashion before walking out.

"It needs to be a good friend with a real sense of humour," Seldon concedes. "But if you plan a scam well, the satisfaction is enormous."

The best revenge, he says, is when the victim knows that you are responsible but can do absolutely nothing about it. It causes your

adversary inconvenience, embarrassment and better still, money. "I find that, generally speaking, women are better at revenge than men," he says. "They have more patience and the anger bubbles much longer. Men tend to want to lash out. Women can be more devious."

Recently, Seldon has run into a little trouble with his get-even classes. The college where he lectured went into liquidation, and he has found obstacles in his way at others he has approached.

"I just wonder," he muses darkly, "if someone is getting even."

● *Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance, tonight on BBC1 at 10pm*

Selfridges: not a store, but a temple, where spirituality can be found + Di and Dodi prove a kiss isn't naughty, but nice + Prof and prejudice + The spy who taught me

With the right platitude you can work miracles

I don't surprise me that new figures show department stores are, relatively speaking, enjoying a boom. Having spent Sunday indulging in a spot of retail therapy in Selfridges, fair conditions, wonderful food hall and open on Sundays, I can attest to their healing powers.

In a mall, it is hard not to feel alienated, infantilised, as if sucked into a Frits Lang film remade by Disney, as one is herded along overlit but sunless corridors like programmed-to-shop sheep. The department store, too, subduces, but it understands that in an age of consumerist worship, we want not villages, but temples: the department store is, as the scholar Peter

Gay established in *The Bourgeois Experience*, the cathedral of the modern age. Now, the age about which Professor Gay, now at Yale, was writing might have been just as crassly materialistic as our own. But there are worse things to be than crassly materialistic. Indeed, it is when we try to show ourselves to be better — the clumsy pawing after "spirituality" — that we are at our most awful. The self-deceiving, self-congratulatory, woolly-minded platitude that marks the contemporary sensibility is a case in point. Openness, briskness, clarity, understanding: these are meant to represent the spirit of the age. They do not. I have found what truly represents the spirit of the age

in the basement of Selfridges. It is a book: *Meditations For Women Who Do Too Much*. Everything about it screams Now! The breathy indication of higher thought, of pseudo-philosophical musings, the portentous simplicity of its title, with its prayer-book intonation, the respectful separation of women into a special little huddle with a special, big sensibility, the martyred yet self-aggrandising assumption of saintly and supercharged busyness: this, exactly, is the state we're in.

Every up-to-the-minute cliché about what it is to be female, the distillation of every woman's page, has found its way into this book. On my first journalistic assignment, I was sent to a festival of clairvoyants and palm readers. I listened to them ply their trades, and the way it worked soon became clear. Their opening gambit clothed itself as criticism — to show their sincerity, their desire to seem at all costs blunt and honest — but the reality of their words was to flatter, thereby ingratiating themselves on the punter, who, in turn, was narcissistically inclined to view that as tokens of their sincerity.

It went like this: "Oh dear, I can see what your faults are. You do have a problem..." — and here an accusatory pause — "...you're just too hard on yourself. Give, give, give..." and so on in this vein. *Meditations For Women Who Do Too Much* (I can't stop repeating this wonderful title) pulls the same trick. Each day's meditation is prefaced by a bonus platitude of

Nigella Lawson



its own. Thus, for March 19, we have from "Lynn": "We workaholics make so many promises that no human being could possibly keep them. That is one of the ways we keep ourselves feeling bad about ourselves."

How anyone could get so much self-pity and self-aggrandisement into one sentence is beyond me — but beyond the sphere of this book. I can't help feeling that the women who read it maybe do not do quite enough if they have time to ponder such issues as "Nothing I do is too tiny or too tedious to be spiritual", or "To err is human, to forgive divine". To forgive myself and others is divinely human.

In another entry, the author has the audacity to compare the discouragement a woman feels during the course of her

working life with the difficulties Anna Akhmatova, the Russian poet, wrote about.

"I have wished for a miracle, and I can be one," the author concludes one day. "Who is the person I call me?" she asks on another. "She has the potential of being one of the most interesting persons I have ever met. Yet I hardly know her."

It would be hard to find more concentration of self-absorption, New Age daffiness and almost parodic homespun philosophising if you tried. Women tied themselves to the barricades, threw themselves under the King's horse — and for this?

The homily for today, August 13, focuses on how much we seek to control ourselves, and ends with the uplifting thought: "No wonder we don't smile much!" You said it, lady.

Miss M's class background

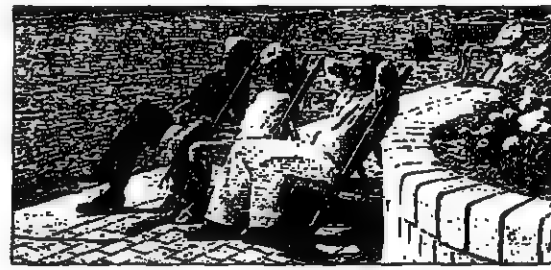
A NEWSPAPER account of Eliza Manningham-Buller, the newly appointed woman tipped to take over M15, offers the information that, for some time, friends had thought she was a teacher. Now it turns out she is a spy.

But the pose as teacher was no subterfuge. Indeed, I remember Miss Manningham-Buller: she taught me English. Not for long, it's true, and I can't remember much about the lessons (my fault, I'm sure), but it now gives a glamorous gloss to my otherwise unspectacular schooldays.

Diana, goddess of the chaste

us that we do. The tabloids know that we live in a land squirming with lust, where every nod is just as good as a wink — and sometimes even better.

It's odd, then, isn't it, to discover that, in the midst of all of this writhing, those same tabloids are able to write that a single photographed kiss from a princess is not a signal of mere sexual attraction, but of true romance and, what is more, certain-sure to lead to the altar. So decent, these tabloid commentators, able to retain such purity of thought in this wicked, wicked world.



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MEDIA
Shock tactics: Giles Whittell on the US agony aunt heading for London Pages 20-21

Calais
begins with sea...

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Alan Coren



Battered fish, chip shots and carpicidal mania at the water hazard

Someone very dear to me has just been killed by a golf ball. I am still in shock. I was the one who discovered the corpse. I discovered it soon after I discovered the golf ball, because it was the golf ball which first came to my notice, being more noticeable than the corpse beside which it was floating. Since a shrewd guess which I should confess that when I say very dear to me, I exaggerate somewhat: you cannot call two quid dear, even though it would probably be a five by now; the body is a lot bigger than it was six years ago when I carried it home with nine others in a plastic bag from Hendon Fishworld, in addition to which goldfish prices have doubtless shot up along with everything else. But anyway, dear or not, we have shared the same garden since 1991. It is in the pond. I on the rim, and have grown as close to one another as those circumstances and our differing species permit and while I may agree that had it been the fish who discovered me in the pond, dead of a golf ball, it might not have gone into shock. I cannot accept that the loss of a close fish is in any way mitigated by the possibility that the affection was unrequited. Especially when the loss is exacerbated by its nature.

Someone killed the fish. Not in self-defence — I rather doubt that the fish leapt from the pond and set about a passing golfer, forcing him to protect himself with the first weapon that came to hand — but either deliberately or unwittingly, and I want the culprit nailed. For myself I am not the culprit. I am not walking into my local nick with a dented goldfish and a Dunlop 65 and demanding to see the Chief Superintendent of the Serious Fish Squad. I am pretty certain that it cannot be the former: were some kind of crackpot walking Cricklewood's sporadic wetlands and hurling golf balls at their fauna, I think I should have heard. I believe it to be another kind of crackpot, a conviction sustained, furthermore, by two other telling pieces of evidence, one in the guttering of my garden shed and one at the foot of my acacia: along with the carpicidal Exhibit A, they would seem to constitute incontrovertible proof that, out there beyond my back wall, some madman is playing golf.

The question is, if I am going to stand any chance of nailing him, how far beyond? Did he, that is, tee off with a driver to reach my premises from a couple of hundred yards away, or take only, say, a Number 8 iron from half that distance? Or might it have been no more than a sand-wedge, chipping into my pond from another garden a mere street away? Did he stand there, bunkered perhaps in a neighbour's sandpit or stymied behind a plastic elf, and did he finally swing, ready to cheer his deft escape, only to see the arcing ball plummet into the notorious hazard known throughout golfdom as Coren's Pond? And what about Coren's Gutter and Coren's Tree? Was that him on two earlier rounds? Or does he play with a couple of equally inept madmen? Might they, indeed, be a foursome, one of them either too incompetent to clear my wall, or competent enough to clear my house? Where, if the latter, did this one go after that? Is the green somewhere across the road, beyond my frontage? I know only that my garden isn't the green. I have looked for a hole in my lawn, but though there are, of course, several, there is none that seems large enough. Certainly none with a flag in it.

You see, do you not, where deduction ends yet nailing fails to start? Since I do not know where in the national fairway my garden lies, I have no idea where this swine, these swines, is/are shooting from. I do not know when they do it, I have heard no one, I have seen no one, and may never do either, especially as their balls have been left where they lay, suggesting, perhaps, that my garden was never the target at all, merely the victim of three wild slices at the dog-leg fourth up the road.

Then again, I suppose it's always on the cards that he/they heard the unmistakable noise of gutta-percha meeting goldfish, twigged that a major crime had been committed, and slunk away like the politicians they are. I hope so. I hope they have been put off their stroke for good. There are nine more dear ones in the pond, and they have had enough of golf.

Tim Hames reports on the feuding that could see the fall of America's most powerful political dynasty

Is this the end of the line for the Kennedys?

Solidarity, Joseph Kennedy always told his sons, would be the source of their salvation. Until now that dictum has been respected by the entire Kennedy dynasty. Through tragedy and scandal, the clan stuck together and retained its political influence. This makes it even more astonishing that John Kennedy Jr, the son of the slain President, has broken ranks and assailed two cousins for their private failings. His attack on Michael Kennedy, the son of Robert Kennedy, for his apparent affair with a teenage babysitter, will have little lasting importance. His assault on Michael's elder brother, Joseph Kennedy II, is far more consequential and will be deemed treachery within the family.

Joseph Kennedy II's electoral fate is critical to the continued power of the Kennedys. After ten years in Congress, serving a district that once sent John F. Kennedy to the House of Representatives, he intends to become Governor of Massachusetts. If he is elected, to the only position of consequence within the state that a Kennedy has never held, then he will become a figure of real importance within the Democratic Party. If not, he is finished. The family's hold on Massachusetts affairs — a Kennedy has held office there for every year but two in the past half-century — will end when Edward Kennedy eventually retires from the Senate.

Unfortunately, Congressman Kennedy is not the ideal figure to lead either his family or Massachusetts into the next millennium. He seems to lack the intelligence, oratorical skills, or personal charm of his father. His record during a decade in Washington has been widely viewed as dismal. His major "interventions" of note have been in foreign policy — essentially, Northern Ireland — where his ceaseless promotion of the IRA's cause has doubtless pleased his partisan constituents, but has otherwise been an embarrassment. He also dumped his first wife, Sheila. She promptly savaged him in print for having pressed her into an annulment. It was the Congressman's inept attempt at a public apology that prompted John Kennedy Jr's condemnation.

Nevertheless, the entire might of the Kennedy machine will be deployed to make Joseph Kennedy II the Governor. Too much is on the line to permit trivial issues — such as a transparent lack of relevant qualifications — to enter electoral

calculations. All the traditional weapons in the Kennedy arsenal will be deployed in the quest for, first, the Democratic Party nomination ten months hence, and then the final contest in November next year. The Congressman will vastly outspend any other candidate. His television commercials will shamelessly exploit public sympathy for his assassinated predecessors. The clan will also use its powers of persuasion to prevent other potential contenders from entering the race.

The early signs are that the strategy might be depressingly successful. Joseph Kennedy has already made it clear that he will spend more than \$10 million in the quest for office. Several alternative candidates from within the Massachusetts Democratic ranks have decided that they simply cannot compete at that level. Only one figure of real rank, State Attorney-General Scott Harshbarger, is inclined to make the race — but he has already found past financial contributors unwilling to commit themselves in a

contest against the Kennedys. Meanwhile, the most popular Republican in the state, William Weld, removed himself from the Massachusetts political scene last month with his resignation as Governor. His departure came after President Clinton rather conveniently offered him the post of US Ambassador to Mexico. Without him, the Republicans are inconsequential.

The Kennedys have proved past masters at winning elections regardless of their personal merits. Jack Kennedy ran for President in 1960 at the age of 43 despite very modest qualifications. Former President Harry Truman complained bitterly that the nomination had been bought for Kennedy by his billionaire father. Once elected, Jack appointed his brother as Attorney-General. That provoked outrage from the American Bar Association, who complained, correctly, that Bobby had no experience of legal practice. After the President's assassination, his brother sought election to the Senate from New York — a

state in which he barely met the residency requirements.

But even this audacity was outstripped by the methods used to elevate Edward Kennedy to the Senate. When Jack Kennedy won the White House, his Massachusetts Senate seat fell vacant. Bobby Kennedy's selection as Attorney-General removed the obvious successor from contention: that left Teddy as the sole remaining brother.

Unfortunately, Teddy was then 28 years old and the American Constitution stipulates that senators cannot be younger than 30. An almost unknown figure named Ben Smith, Jack Kennedy's Harvard University room-mate, a man of no prior or subsequent electoral experience, became a senator for two years and then retired into obscurity once Teddy Kennedy became available.

It remains to be seen whether the tricks and techniques of the past can still deliver the citizens of Massachusetts. If the family can elect Joseph Kennedy II to the Governor's mansion, then the clan can survive into the next century. If the electorate votes its candidate down, then an extraordinary era will have drawn to an end. It would be ironic if that process of political decline was assisted by the son of the only Kennedy to have attained the highest office that the United States has to offer.

Honour among vulgarians

The true purpose of the press is to make the complex simple and to grab the reader's eye. But it neglects this in its welter of synthetic rage over Mandelson and its tasteless hounding of the Princess



Simon Jenkins

am not so sure about the press. Mr Mandelson's job is to co-ordinate the presentation of government policy. He wants to put it in the best possible light. With his colleague, Alastair Campbell, he has pioneered a new technique of media relations that involves treating journalists not with the obsessive timidity of a John Major but with open contempt. They have discovered that most journalists, if sufficiently insulted, capitulate, especially if they work for the BBC.

Mr Mandelson goes walking with the BBC boss, John Birt. No BBC journalist can tell what passes between them, so why risk upsetting the easily upset Minister without Portfolio? This is not spin-doctoring, but spin-neurology. The technique is well-documented in Nicholas Jones's excellent *Soundbites and Spindocors*.

Mr Mandelson is doing the oldest job in British politics and doing it well. He is putting across the boss's case. Until last May the political media was walling that the poor Tories "had no Mandelson". Mr Major had nobody

with sufficient authority to knock heads together and make sure ministers did not shoot each other in the foot. The new Tory leader, William Hague, has even set out to "find a Tory Mandelson". For the Tories to protest that Mr Mandelson is too effective is hypocritical. They are jealous.

That is understandable. For the press to make the same complaint against Mr Mandelson is ludicrous. For the past week he has been portrayed as a near-criminal manipulator. To limit the damage of Robin Cook's separation from his wife, he leaked news of an inquiry into a possible security lapse by Chris Patten. His apparitions leaked

pseudo-news about the Royal Yacht. Nor was this all. Mr Mandelson kept popping up on radio and television to put Tony Blair's first 100 days in a good light. To crown the indignity, when a BBC reporter asked him pertinent questions, he was more than pert back. He was rude. The media's entire August shift burst into collective tears of indignation.

Mr Mandelson may not have been wise to court so much personal publicity this past week. As every bowler knows, the best spin is concealed. But the media has made an ass of itself. Since the days of Harold Wilson, Downing Street has drip-fed the lobby with daily news, views and title-tattle. On the old *Evening Standard*, a call came each morning from Trevor Lloyd-Hughes with the Prime Minister's spin on the day's events, hoping to influence the lunchtime edition. The key to such spin is the close relationship between impresario and chief. Sir Bernard Ingham had that relationship with Margaret Thatcher, so does Mr Mandelson with Mr Blair. It is immaterial whether the impresario is an official or a minister.

The accountability is direct to the top. Such public relations has long been part and parcel of modern government.

Good journalism detects spin. Last week, editors were free to check back with defence and security staff whether the leaks were likely to be true, or were merely smoke to deflect them from Mr Cook. They could disregard the leak or downplay it. Downing Street cannot order news into a bulletin. Mr Mandelson cannot demand to be on the BBC. Today programme or *World at One* or *Breakfast with Frost*. He gets invited, usually by interviewers desperate to show how much tougher they are than their rivals. Competition among these interviewers is now as frenetic, and often as dumb, as between tabloid picture editors.

The fact is that the British media last week bought duff goods from the wildest salesmen in town. It was professionally negligent. When exposed, it sought a scapegoat in Mr Mandelson himself. He was suddenly not a wonder boy but a master manipulator of poor, defenceless journalists. *The Independent* on Sunday even wrote a headline, "Polls say Mandelson is a vote-loser". There was no poll, just an unspecified Tory party "focus group". This trick of presenting one biased story as if to balance another, may please politicians. The readers are twice deceived.

Those who cry out for media respectability risk the triteness of American press theorists. Walter Lippman called newspapers "the only serious book most people read every day". Jefferson had gone further and suggested that "if forced to choose between a government without newspapers and newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter". Neither sage can have read a British newspaper in August.

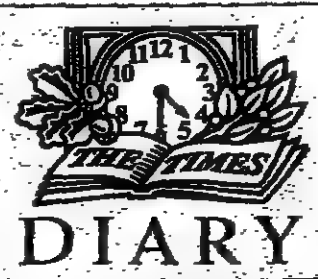
Laws to curb the press are again up for debate. They are either illiberal or unworkable. But when newspapers misbehave and the law is silent, people will start arming themselves against journalists. Diana, Princess of Wales, and Peter Mandelson were both doing their jobs last week, and doing them rather well. The obscene hounding of the one was tasteless and unethical, and is likely to invite privacy curbs on photojournalism. The pusillanimous whinge about the other was sloppy journalism, and will encourage this Government to treat the profession with ever more unrelenting contempt.

I like the concept of a vulgar press. Journalists should always battle to make the complex simple and to grab the reader's eye with novelty. Otherwise British newspapers will go the way of most American ones. They will be dull, and read only by an elite. But there must be honour even among vulgarians. Defining the limits of vulgarity is a job best done by the media itself. If it refuses, the limits will be fixed by others, and they will be tight.

United we stand

SALVATION is at hand for Sir Desmond Pither, the pilloried chairman of United Utilities, in the improbable form of the Duke of Edinburgh. Pither, who has been on his job at United at an emergency shareholders' meeting yesterday, despite having seen off two chief executives and being publicly ridiculed as the fattest of the fat cats. Now, he has been lined up to take over as head of the World Fellowship of Donors to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Inter-

national scheme, in the new year. Pither has somehow managed to time the news of his colossal bonus payments to coincide with a mass wall of complaints from those who use his water supplies. An immodest man, with tastes in gold watch-chains and light-brown car dealer overcoats, he makes a strange bedfellow for the Duke. Nonetheless, last November, as Pither found himself bullet-dodging over the scale of his bonuses, the Duke stepped up to the plate by



going to open the North West Water centre in Warrington for him.

Pither is a curious choice for reasons besides his poor dress sense. His stewardship of the Merseyside Development Corporation was not a great success. Furthermore, he has been severely criticised at United for his parochial outlook and reluctance to look abroad to expand, as his European rivals have done. Not ideal qualifications, one would have thought, for one about to head an international fundraising body.

Home truths

THE main attraction at the Edinburgh Literary Festival yesterday was a public row between Margaret Forster, the novelist and biographer, and her husband, the writer

and journalist Hunter Davies. Wearing a Martin Bell-style white suit, Davies agreed to interview Forster before a packed marquee. This was no gentle bicker over the marmalade. Mrs Davies squashed her husband's theories about her literary output, accused him of never reading her books, or understanding fiction at all, and rebuked him for over-enjoying such public occasions as the festival and the craven admiration of fans.

"You're like Mr Toad. You're in floods of tears if people aren't charmed by you," Ms Forster told



"We're after rogue Scots Labour MPs today, Williams"

her husband. "I was always the cat who walked by herself." Davies's last ill-advised question, "Are you a feminist?", elicited a shrill: "Of course!" What does that mean? asked Davies. "Oh God!" said a theatrical Forster.

The good ladies of Morningside should be assured that the Davieses have been happily married for 37 years.

After my report yesterday concerning the failure of Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, to renew his car tax, his car has disappeared from the street outside his house, to the safety, one hopes, of an off-street parking space. Only five more days till the clamps take hold, minister.

I spent two mornings with

him," said Ward, who is 80, from his home near Ashford in Kent. "but it would have been marvellous if it had been a hundred. I was having a left-handed conversation while my right was drawing. But as I am deaf I had to concentrate like mad."

Labour's hands-on approach to government does not seem to extend to its inquiry into the state of its Scottish members after the suicide of Gordon McMaster, the late MP for Paisley. Nick Brown, the Government Chief Whip, who is supposed to be overseeing the inquiry, has spent the past week as far from Paisley as is imaginable. Because of redoubling work in his offices in No 12 Downing Street, he has been lording it up in No 11 in the oak-panelled offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. No 11 is widely rated as the most salubrious address in Whitehall and is unoccupied while Gordon Brown holidays in America.

In the cold

SHOWING a touching concern for the egos of others, Mel Gibson, the gnomish Australian film star, was in London on Monday night for the premiere of his latest film, *Conspiracy Theory*. As the entertainment



Gibson: in the limelight

press gathered to hawl questions to the stars, a rather frazzled publicist pleaded with the assembled press corps not to ignore the film's director, Richard Donner. "I know Mel's the draw card, but for purely political reasons, do you think you could direct a few token questions to Richard as well?" she asked. "It would make Mel happy too."

It was to no effect. Donner stood fidgeting as all screams, lenses and thrusting microphones were directed firmly at Gibson.



Desmond Pither and the Duke of Edinburgh, his new boss



هذه الاماكن



ABOVE SUSPICION

Peers should declare their financial interests

The long arm of the Committee on Standards in Public Life is now poised to extend into the House of Lords. Having illuminated the darkest corners of the House of Commons, then created a rigorous regulatory framework for MPs, Lord Nolan has devoted some of the summer recess to contemplating a similar review of standards in the Lords. He himself is eager to return to his career as a law lord, but his successor will find the Committee eager to turn its attention to the 'Other Place'. One of its members, Lord Shore of Stepney, has already given notice that he expects peers to abide by the new obligation on MPs to declare their financial interests.

Yet it seems that many members of the Lords would disagree. Some two hundred active peers have refused or omitted to declare their interests in the latest register. Their reasons for declining what has hitherto been largely a voluntary disclosure no doubt vary greatly. In the past, it has been left to the discretion of peers to decide whether an interest might 'affect the public perception of the way in which they discharge their parliamentary duties', and ought therefore to be made public. Baroness Thatcher, for example, may well believe that she has earned the trust of her peers; as she has long since ceased to hold political office, no vital public interest is damaged by her decision to exercise discretion.

Lord Parkinson's case is, however, quite different. By accepting the senior post of Chairman of the Conservative Party, he assumed certain obligations. The fact that he is in Opposition does not alter the fact that he wields power and patronage. Such a figure must be seen to be above suspicion. Not that he has any reason to fear transparency: his ten directorships are no secret. The boards on which he sits value his actual experience, not his potential influence. Declaring these directorships in the Lords' register was a mere formality, but one which

the Conservative Chairman would have been wiser to regard as his duty. His failure to do so has blunted his attack on Lord Simon of Highbury's similar oversight.

Lord Parkinson's omission is all the odder given that several of his former colleagues have declared their interests. Indeed, the multifarious skills and accumulated wisdom of the peers are the principal glory of their House. As the Commons becomes an ever more narrowly oligarchical body of professional politicians, the Lords' role as a scrutinising chamber positively requires them to retain a generous mixture of intelligent generalists and specialists from other walks of life. The more useful public servants they may be — provided they are frank about them.

For the Lords to pre-empt Lord Nolan and his committee may also be a matter of institutional survival. Though the Upper House has sometimes anticipated the Lower — notably in broadcasting debates — its palpable lack of transparency now seems anachronistic. True, the Other Place has seen little lobbying and no scandals; but this does not justify complacency. The election of a Labour Government, able to steamroller a constitutional revolution through the Commons, should scotch the argument that the Lords does not matter: it may yet become the real opposition.

Atlee called the Lords "a glass of champagne that has stood for five days". The taxpayer will no longer pay for the best club in town. If the House of Lords is to preserve its distinctive character, while performing its proper function as a revising chamber, then it needs to show the Nolan committee that it can reform itself. Peers are legislators, and they should adhere to the same standards, including disclosure of interests, as MPs. To reformulate Acton: all power tends to corrupt, and absolute openness is the only antidote.

OPAQUE IRAN

The new President may be powerless to effect real change

The composition of the Cabinet nominated yesterday by Muhammad Khatami, the new Iranian President, is disappointingly cautious. Those disappointed will include not only policymakers in the West, whose eagerness to identify Iranian "moderates" has led them into embarrassing miscalculations in the past, but the millions of Iranians who cheered last May's sweeping election, victory of this mild-mannered cleric as a merited popular rebuke to the dihard cabals that run Iran's theocracy.

In Iran's medieval power structure, the shape of the Government is only one part of an equation which is impossible to calculate accurately because so much real power is wielded by unaccountable bodies such as the Council of Guardians and shadowy religious foundations. They answer to Iran's omnipotent spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who sets the broad domestic agenda, controls key appointments to the judiciary, armed forces and media and dominates foreign and defence policy.

But this Cabinet was Mr Khatami's first opportunity to show how serious he is about reforms. The emphasis on technocrats for the key domestic ministries will not be enough to impress Iranians; the outgoing President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, also had his "California mafia". The few identifiably liberal appointments in social portfolios will not make up for his failure to appoint a single female minister. Yet it would be premature to conclude that Iranians who long for more competent and tolerant government, and who believed his campaign promises to improve respect for the rule of law, champion women's rights, work for more social justice and allow greater latitude in private life, were wrong to vote for him.

The President has to submit his list to the Iranian Majlis. Its Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, was spectacularly defeated in

the presidential race despite — or because of — being championed by Ayatollah Khamenei. The President must sense the knives at his back. An equally plausible explanation for this uninspiring debut, therefore, is that he dares not risk early public humiliation at the hands of the hidebound conservative mullahs who dominate the Majlis.

He has reason to take his opponents seriously. They have already engineered the arrest, since the elections, of prominent liberals identified with him. But what such caution does indicate is that any easing of the repressive shackles of arbitrary power, exercised since the 1979 revolution in the name of religious dogma, will be both slow and all but invisible, even to Iranians.

At his inauguration ceremony, Mr Khatami held out at least half an olive branch to the outside world. He spoke of the importance of "dialogue between civilisations" and "detente" in Iran's foreign relations, and promised to "avoid any action or behaviour causing tension". In this, he speaks for the many Iranians who chafe at the inglorious isolation imposed on them.

These words are worth weighing, but in scales loaded with scepticism. There is no evidence that Iran has stopped bankrolling Islamist terror. The *fatwa* against Salman Rushdie, an outrageous affront to international law, still stands. Iran may be close to developing nuclear weapons and has, notably, yet to sign the protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that would permit effective inspections. In America, critics who contend that containment of Iran has failed can draw no cheer from the dismal collapse of Europe's efforts at "constructive dialogue". It is just possible that Mr Khatami is the interlocutor the world has been looking for since 1979; but Iran has too many scores against it for the West to be prodigal with carrots just yet.

EVIL EMPIRE

The Good, the Bad, and the British

A decent villain is hard to find nowadays. For more than 40 years the Cold War supplied Hollywood with an inexhaustible farrago of baddies. Communies and spies. But when the Berlin Wall came down, action movies lost more than just an evil empire: they lost all their Russian anti-heroes.

The Chinese, still spouting communist ideology, could perhaps stand in: but they were too inscrutable. The Germans were passe, apart from a lingering trace of the old Nazi in Blüchli. Sicilian Mafia had a brief, Oscar-winning run, but fell foul of the powerful Italian American lobby. Middle Eastern villains were promising but when Arab Americans went to court to file defamation suits over *The Crimson Jihad*, studio lawyers whispered into the ears of film moguls and the next five sequels were all cancelled. And so the movie-makers returned, after a deeply felt absence, to their favourite villains: the British.

As a letter to *The New York Times* noted sardonically, whether it is history (*Michael Collins*, *Braveheart*), drama (*The Silence of the Lambs*), thriller (*The Devil's Own*) or children's animation (*The Lion King*), the men with the sinister leers and evil plans have all been British or had English accents. So imprinted is the stereotype that Britons have portrayed even American baddies (Ant-

hony Hopkins in *Nixon*) while British heroes such as Robin Hood or James Bond have been usurped by Americans or Irishmen.

This is splendid news. It continues a long tradition that gave such cut-glass British stars as Trevor Howard (*Mutiny on the Bounty*) and George Sanders (*Rebecca*) continuous employment. It has paved the way for Gary Oldman, Alan Rickman and Charles Dance to smear, plot and double-cross their way across the screen. Even the children are again being brought up on horrible Brits. Who can forget Disney's serpentine, insinuating Sir Hiss, the only one in the Sheriff of Nottingham's entourage who had a Terry-Thomas English accent?

What, to British ears, is extraordinary is that every villain has elegant, rounded vowels. It probably all goes back to 1776, when the heroic but simple American soul confronted King George's privileged officer class and won. There is something about British English that to American ears implies social grace, effortless superiority and high culture far above anything found in Connecticut or Kansas. How satisfying, therefore, to know that it is all a façade, that the Briton on screen is hypocritical, a traitor and a coward. Of course he will know which fork to use at dinner. But is that not the ultimate intimidation?

Role of the CPS in high-profile trials

From His Honour Judge Morrell

Sir, You report today that the acquittal of three footballers and a businessman of conspiring to fix Premier League matches is "yet another blow to the beleaguered Director of Public Prosecutions, Dame Barbara Mills, QC".

This view of the role of the Crown Prosecution Service, which has been reflected in press comment on the results of other high-profile trials recently, such as Maxwell, is misconceived, unfair and dangerous.

The duty of the CPS is enshrined in the Code for Crown Prosecutors: in cases where it judges the chances of a conviction to be in the public interest, it must lay the facts before the court fairly and impartially. The duty of the advocate who prosecutes is to act as a minister of justice and not to strive officiously for a conviction.

Within such a framework, it is inevitable that a proportion of prosecutions result in acquittals: in 1996-97, 40 per cent in the Crown Court and 25 per cent in the magistrates' courts. To stigmatise these acquittals as "blows" or "defeats" for the CPS and its director implies that it should be enough for a conviction that it or she has decided to prosecute. In such an attitude lies the seed of tyranny.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. MORRELL,
Judges Chambers,
Crown and County Court,
Crown Buildings, Rivergate,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
August 8.

From Mr Colin Slinn

Sir, The decision by Mr Justice McCullough not to allow the costs of the defendants acquitted in the match-rigging case (reports and leading article, August 9) would appear somewhat perverse.

It is true — as you quote Geoffrey Robertson, QC, as stating — that the trial judge has a discretion in relation to costs; however, this was a second trial for the accused. The jury in the first trial failed to reach a verdict and were discharged; it was then up to the Crown Prosecution Service to decide whether or not to put the same evidence to another jury in a new trial.

Having heard the defence evidence the prosecution still went ahead, presumably in the public interest, with the second trial, thus incurring further substantial sums of public money. Surely the costs of this second trial, which could have been avoided if the prosecution had so wished, should not be paid by those acquitted. This would seem to put a high price on justice.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN SLINN,
29 Bridge Park,
Rothsay, Bute, Strathclyde.
August 11.

Proper process of law

From Sir Anthony Grant

Sir, What business is it of the Prime Minister to order an investigation into the death of a Labour MP (report, August 4)?

The tragic death of Gordon McMaster, or anyone else in similar sad circumstances, is a matter for a fatal accident inquiry, should the local Procurator Fiscal's office call one and, if necessary, other courts.

Neither the Government nor Parliament should interfere with the proper process of law — nor pre-empt it — no matter how politically sensitive the issue.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRANT
(Conservative MP for
Cambridgeshire, South West, 1983-97)
32 Beaufort Place,
Thompsons Lane, Cambridge.
August 5.

Computers for Africa

From Mr Richard Harris

Sir, May I take issue with two points in your report on the demonstration in Botswana by the inventor, Trevor Bayliss, of the Apple E Mate hand-held laptop computer powered by clockwork (details, later editions, July 30)?

You say the computer crashed after 16 minutes. I wasn't there, but as a rule when this type of computer runs out of its main battery it simply sleeps until it gets more power and, unlike a normal laptop, you don't lose whatever you are currently working on.

Also, you say that this laptop costs about £2,000. The E Mate is not yet generally available in Britain, but can be bought in the United States for US\$600-\$700 (approximately £400). It was designed for the US education market, but its simplicity and ruggedness make it potentially ideal for the developing world. At £400 rather than £2,000 it becomes a much more realistic proposition.

I'm not an employee of Apple, just a long-time user and analyst of mobile computing, currently evaluating the Apple E Mate for use in African conservation projects — it looks ideal.

Regards,
RICHARD HARRIS,
5 Clovelly Park,
Hindhead, Surrey.
richardh@tdv.com
August 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Mystery of the C.S. Lewis wardrobe

From Mr Christopher Whiteside

Sir, When the celestial copies of some of your recent issues arrived (Diary, July 28; letters, July 31 and August 4) I suspect Heaven's arches rang with the sound of C. S. Lewis roaring with laughter.

Those of your correspondents who have attempted to derive allegorical meanings, or explain the origin, of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* should bear in mind the comments in Lewis's Christian writings, to the effect that everyone who tried to reconstruct the genesis of his books got it wrong.

Lewis used as an argument against liberal theologians who proposed allegorical interpretations of the Bible the contention that reviewers who employed similar techniques on the books published by himself and his friends (such as J. R. R. Tolkien) had "a record of one hundred per cent failure" (*Fern seed and Elephants*, Collins, 1975).

As he wrote to the TLS (November 28, 1958), much speculation in the study of literature "seems solid only because those who know the facts are dead and can't contradict it".

Yours sincerely,
CHRIS WHITESIDE,
41 Queens Crescent,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
August 4.

From Mr Jonathan Brewer

Sir, C. S. Lewis had a lifelong love of the works of Edith Nesbit (1858-1924), paying tribute to her in his spiritual autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, and writing to a young correspondent in 1957 that "I love Nesbit too and I think I have learned a lot from her about how to write stories of this kind".

Among the many correlations between the Nesbit children's canon and Lewis's Narnian chronicles are a talking lion, a silver chair, a boy called "Digory" [sic], a faun in the woods and pools between trees. There is even a magic wardrobe in Nesbit's *The Magic World*.

She [Anabel] went straight to the big wardrobe and turned its glass handle. "I expect it's only shelves and people's best hats," she said ...

Drink-drive penalties

From Mr E. S. Hooper

HM Coroner, South Yorkshire (East District)

Sir, Earlier this year I argued here (letter, January 7) that reducing the lawful blood/alcohol limit for motorists would be counterproductive, in that it would lead to a considerable reduction in public goodwill towards the police.

There is no substantive evidence that people are affected by 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. The 50mg level was put into the Road Safety Act 1967 by Mrs Barbara Castle because at that concentration people begin to be affected.

With great respect to the Roads Minister, Baroness Hayman (report, August 6), the "hard core of offenders who are way over the [present] limit" are unlikely to stop drinking and driving because the lawful blood/alcohol limit is reduced to 50mg, the equivalent of one pint of beer — a proposal I do not remember seeing in Labour's general election manifesto.

They might stop if there were mandatory imprisonment for driving "way over the limit". Such imprisonment could be at weekends for those in employment.

I suggest a minimum of one week, or two weekends, for a first offender with 150mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood, with increments of three days

London's theatre

From Mr Richard C. Marshall

Sir, It is ironic that Mr Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, should accuse the Royal Opera House of making "the man on the Clapham omnibus" (Mr Noble's description) hostile towards the arts (report, August 4). Mr Noble himself has done much to antagonise the man on the Clapham omnibus, although passengers on the Newcastle and Plymouth omnibuses might be happier.

Since Mr Noble took over at the RSC, the company's activities at their London base at the Barbican have been reduced to a selection of their

Of course it wasn't hats. It was most amazingly, a crystal cave, very oddly shaped like a railway station ... and over the station clock was a full moon.

Lucy, in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, is clearly an echo of Anabel.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN BREWER,
5 Station Road, St Columb, Cornwall.

From the President of the Oxford C. S. Lewis Society

Sir, While some critics may find amusement in saying that C. S. Lewis's wardrobe is a womb symbol, neither I nor the Oxford C. S. Lewis Society have ever endorsed such a view, as your Diary incorrectly reported on July 28.

Create-a-theory scholarship is fun for those with Freudian inclinations; but we should spare even Liam Gallagher, who has revealed to your diarist that *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is his "favourite book", the great womb farce.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW P. CUNEO,
President,
Oxford C. S. Lewis Society,
Merton College, Oxford.
August 1.

From Mr Paul Barnetson

Sir, C. S. Lewis is reputed to have said that he got the idea for the wardrobe from the Victorian writer, George MacDonald (1824-1905).

Most people remember MacDonald for his children's fantasies, of which *The Princess and the Goblin* is best known; not so many realise that he wrote two excellent fantasy books for adults, *Phantastes* (1858) and *Lillith* (1895). I have an edition of both published by Victor Gollancz in 1962, with an introduction by Lewis.

Lillith contains a cupboard. When the owner enters it, and then leaves it again, he's somewhere else.

Womb indeed!
Yours sincerely,
PAUL BARNETSON,
22 Ferndale Road,
Chichester, West Sussex.
August 8.

or an extra weekend for every additional 25ml or part thereof.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY HOOPER,
HM Coroner,
South Yorkshire (East District),
5 Union Street,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
August 6.

From Mr John Harthman

Sir, You report that Baroness Hayman says reducing the drink-drive limit was "certainly an option" because there is still "a hard core of offenders who are way over the [current] limit".

So once again, it seems, as with J2 pistol-shooters, the law-abiding majority are to have their freedoms curtailed because this Government cannot logically think through an argument, but wishes to be seen to react to public opinion.

Surely the answer to offenders who are "way over the limit" is to increase the penalties for severe breaches of the law and to target police activity on these hardcore offenders instead of harassing the seven out of eight motorists who, you report, were asked to take — and passed — breath tests in England and Wales last year.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HARTHMAN,
42 Gisborne Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

In place of poetry

From Dr Naomi Lightman

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, August 4) extols the virtues of the recipe book of Annabella Blount, published in 1694. Had times been different he might have been able to extol her virtues as a poet.

As she herself tells us in *A Cure for Poetry*, although encouraged by her father to follow the Muses and herself longing for praise, she was persuaded by her brother not to employ her "wit/in many works for ladies hands unfit ..." but to "turn her sense to housewife's wiser cares". Thereupon she "burned the trifling products" of her head and now "Where poets stood before, receipt [ie. recipe] books stand."

No doubt her brother considered that her marriage prospects would thereby be improved and there would be less risk of his having to support her financially as a blue-stocking spinster.

Yours faithfully,
NAOMI LIGHTMAN,
5b Prince Arthur Road, NW3.
August 4.

Worrying work

From Professor Gerald Goodhardt

Sir, Notices around the Elephant and Castle warn that the parking meters are "alarmed". Maybe they have heard about the "de-ranked" lawnmowers of Tonbridge (letter, August 12).

Yours faithfully,
G. J. GOODHARDT,
68 Hamilton Terrace, NWS.
g.j.goodhardt@city.ac.uk
August 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Will all radio one day be commercial?

Siren voices lure more of the BBC's listeners

One of life's minor embarrassments is the press conference where there are no questions. Worse is the press conference where no journalists turn up at all, or where the two or three who do are outnumbered by those on the platform all dressed up for their "presentation" and smilingly eager to defend it.

The most obvious reason why silence greeted the call for questions at the quarterly results announcement last week of RAJAR, the agency which does joint research for commercial radio and the BBC, was numbing. The press had so burnt itself out on the subject of Radio 4 the previous week that statements about percentage points, proving this or that were about as welcome as a year's supply of tapes of *Thought for the Day*.

Another explanation for the "hacks' unresponsiveness was that the big news in the numbers — that the audience for Radio 1 has dropped below ten million for the first time in 30 years — has been utterly predictable since Chris Evans left in January. And the big question (well, someone did finally find voice to ask it, will Radio 4's shake-up of its schedules have the same damaging effect of driving away a loyal audience, is unanswerable. Not until the end of next year will there be even a glimpse of the audience's reaction.

Yet, when you think of it, silence means respect. That is the only appropriate reaction to a battery of statistics. Three months is a very short time in a life of a radio listener. Tiny quivers in RAJAR quarterly results keep both commercial and non-commercial sides of the industry awake at night for a very good reason. They may indicate seismic changes to come.

What to make of the RAJAR revelation that between the end of March and the end of June commercial radio took its highest-ever share of listeners? Its 50.2 per cent pushed the BBC to 47.4 per cent, well below the 50 per cent mark which the BBC feels can more comfortably justify its licence fee. One interpretation is that the BBC and commercial radio simply take turns hopping back and forth over the 50 per cent line. But looking back further, the graph of changes looks like one of those on the walls of boardrooms in *New Yorker* cartoons — straight down.

At the end of 1992 the BBC held 60 per cent of the national radio audience. If you're willing to go back to 1972, of course, you can get an even starker graph: BBC 100 per cent, advertising-supported radio, zero. It is not hard to foresee the day when the graph could be totally reversed and all radio becomes commercial radio.

But the British listener does not live in a *New Yorker* environment. There is a special pleasure — 75 years old, to judge from celebrations coming up — to be had from radio stations that do not take time out for commercials, singing or otherwise. And the BBC services that show extraordinary stability, Radios 3 and 4, are, unlike Radio 1, unduplicated on the other side. That Radio 3 has held steady at 5 per cent (of the audience over 15 that tunes in at least once a week) in the face of Classic FM's stronger appeal is proof of its strength. Classic FM, with double the reach, has the world's top favourites, but Radio 3 has the Proms.

Rivals could be creeping up on Radio 4's and Radio 5 Live's preserve of news and good talk. London News Radio is celebrating this week because its quarterly figures show that its reconstruction in the past year is paying off. Relaunching the old LBC and pairing it with a rolling-news station, News Direct, which gives news in sharp 15-minute segments, has worked very well.

The company's new owners, including ITN, Reuters and the *Daily Mail*, have now put in a bid for the North West regional radio licence. If rolling-news does well against the London-orientated To-day in London, how much better might it do in a region which does not like to be reminded of London all the time?

But these stations are local radio. Commercial radio's development has been just the opposite of the BBC's — local first, national later, much later. Commercial radio now is clearly dominant over the BBC's variety, by 4:1. Does this mean that localism is the wave of the future? Probably not. It shows merely that local stations are cheap to start up and their advertisements are of interest to a locally minded audience.

The station to watch, in the light of the Radio 4 renovation, is Talk Radio. It is national and commercial and unlike the others of its kind — Classic Virgin and Atlantic 252 — is devoted to interesting talk, not music. RAJAR shows that its listeners (2.2 million a week) stay tuned longer than to the other commercial national.

So the BBC is right to be worried about national commercial competition — even if the radical remedies to which it seems addicted are the wrong ones. The BBC has the reputation and the resources for its national radio networks to hold onto the legacy of the monopoly years for a long time.

The British listener is a very conservative creature. It changes its habits very slowly, even when young. The 9.7 million a week still tuning to Radio 1, even without Chris Evans, prove it.



BRENDA MADDOX

The Client's Story



Younger women wonder whether it is safe for them to wear a Tampax overnight

TAMPAX

THE CLIENT: Magdalena Teare, 33, Marketing Director UK and Ireland, Tambrands Ltd.

WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT? I am from Sweden. I have worked on Croft Sherry and Häagen-Dazs ice-cream in this country.

THE PRODUCT: Tampax tampons

THE AGENCY: FCB

WHAT'S THE PLOT? Various women discuss their concerns about using a tampon overnight. The advice of an independent authority reassures them.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE? It cost £100,000. Very fair.

AT WHOM IS IT AIMED? Younger women, 19 to 34. That's when you make up your mind and become brand loyal.

WHAT'S THE STRATEGY? We realised that the toxic shock scare was growing in people's minds. It wasn't enough to say we have confidence in our product.

AH, SO IT'S ALL ABOUT TOXIC SHOCK? Yes. Consumers had this nagging thought. We decided it was important enough to change everything: our packaging, leaflets, our educational programmes.

WEREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOUNDING PATRONISING? No. We

did a lot of research — five focus groups. Five hundred women looked at the ads, and we talk to 4,000 women every year.

BUT AREN'T YOU TELLING WOMEN WHAT THEY ALREADY KNOW? No. We have two different types of consumer. Older women who are settled in their habits use the product overnight and don't even think about it, but women of 19-22 grew up during the toxic shock scare, and have felt confused and misinformed.

DO YOU LOOK AT OTHER IDEAS? We did try Dawn French. Younger women liked her but it didn't work for all ages.

WHAT SOLD THIS SCRIPT TO YOU? The absolute tone of voice. Really young women could relate to the women asking the questions — I'm not alone in this worry. Older women relate to the women with the answers.

WHAT'S THE BEST CAMPAIGN YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT? This is looking like it. Tampax has struggled because of health concerns. We had to face that. We used to use glamorous women. This is a complete U-turn. That's why it's making such an impact.

AND THE WORST? The previous Tampax campaign. *Body Language*. It was awful. It completely missed the way. It showed beautiful, skinny women running around the beach and the street. It provoked us to rethink.

DAVID MCGRATH

Political ads lack fizz

Election ads were tame and forgettable, says David McGrath

SPOT the odd man out. New Labour. The Tories. Orange Tango. The answer, of course, is Orange Tango. It's the only one whose ads you can still remember 100 days after they ran.

Think about it. Millions of pounds later, how many of those posters and party political broadcasts that ran over the past three years can you actually remember? Eh, the red eyes. Good. But who were they for? Em, the Tories? Correct, well remembered (although MORI research at the time suggested that 4 out of 5 people were less likely to vote Tory as a result of seeing this ad).

Any more? Remember, we're talking about £40 million in advertising here. Give up? What about the Tory lion with the red lion in his eye? (Unfortunately, DRS research concluded that most people thought it was for Labour.) Tony and John as Punch & Judy for the Lib Dems. "17 years under the Tories. Enough is Enough". "New Labour, new taxes". And on and on.

According to estimates, new Labour spent £26 million to get elected, £13 million of it in the past 12 months, at a cost of £1.05 a vote. The Tories spent £20 million in the past 12 months alone — more than £2 for each vote. Tango spends about £10 million a year.

Why are the parties so hopeless at using the skills of the ad agencies to promote themselves? Dominic Field, business director on the Tango account at HHCL, says: "I suspect, as with all big corporations, the problem is they find it hard to agree what they stand for."

Once Tango hit upon "You know when you've been Tango'd" six years ago they stuck with it. All successful campaigns do the same.

Chris Powell, chief executive of Labour's agency DDB/BMP, agrees: "The Tories were veering all over the place." But he refuses to concede that Labour suffered the same problem. "Our strategy was boringly consistent. We went on and on about tax."

An insider at M&C Saatchi, who spent the Tory millions, confessed the strategy had been inconsistent: "I can't say anything but I could nod my head if you were here."

Look at the campaigns that might have run. A poster showing those demon eyes staring out of Blair's mouth with the caption "What lies behind the smile?" You'd still remember that 100 days later — but it was ditched on the grounds of taste.

Then there was the series of Labour posters featuring drawings of John Major based on the Mr Men cartoons. Despite favourable re-

search, the campaign was cancelled. The net result? Millions of pounds of party funds squandered on barely forgettable, brightly coloured posters like "More jobs for young people" and "Britain deserves better". Will the lessons ever be learnt? Not according to Nicole Kleiman, account manager on the Labour account. "Labour are not like other advertisers, they're a political party. They're not interested in testing ads. They are more interested in seeing people's reactions to news stories." Asked to comment on Tory research, the Saatchi source whispered: "A. I can't. and B. I won't."

At least there are some signs that Labour seems to be thinking ahead. They've launched their summer slogan, "Modern, strong & fair". Hmmm. Think we'll remember that, 100 days from now?

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Jones shoulders new burden of expectation
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BUSINESS EDITOR: Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13 1997

Petrol tax and mortgage rises push up inflation

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

GREEN taxes on petrol, the second of four rises in mortgage costs triggered by monetary policy, and unseasonal downpours of rain in June conspired to boost annual inflation of retail prices from 2.9 to 3.3 per cent last month.

July saw the highest annual rate of increase in the cost of living recorded by the Office for National Statistics for nearly two years.

But after last week's fourth rise in interest rates, the Bank of England is thought unlikely to be troubled when it unveils its

quarterly Inflation Report today. Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, said that he hoped there would be no further rate rises.

RPIX, the price index that excludes mortgage interest and is targeted by the Treasury, moved further away from the 2.5 per cent inflation norm so far achieved only in April and May this year. Annual RPIX inflation rose from 2.7 to 3 per cent, worse than most forecasters expected.

The retail price index did not actually rise in July, but that is usually one of the best months of the year for consumers as discount sales in the high street combine with cheap home-grown summer foods.

This year, crops are not so good. Seasonal

food prices fell only 2.9 per cent between June and July, much less than the 9.1 per cent drop recorded this time last year.

Gordon Brown's post-election Budget was also unseasonal, adding 4p per litre to tax on petrol. About 2.5p per litre was passed on during the month, helping to raise motorist costs 1 per cent on the month and 6.4 per cent over 12 months. In spite of lower insurance premiums.

Rising package holiday costs have ignored sterling's strength. Consumers primed with windfall gains from demutualisations have allowed tour operators to maximise the benefit of a cut in capacity. Full aircraft have replaced dis-

counts on brochure prices, leaving costs up about 6.5 per cent this summer. Even so, the financial markets paid little attention to the worse than expected figures. Shares gained on the stock market and although sterling fell more than a cent against the dollar, the sterling index was unchanged on Tuesday trading after falling overnight.

City analysts noted that the bad news came from the Budget, interest rates and one-off weather factors. RPIX, the inflation measure that excludes indirect taxes as well as mortgage interest, still fell 0.5 per cent on the month, leaving the underlying rate of inflation generated by industry at 2.3 per cent. Apart from the leisure sector, inflation

in services was also modest in July, rising no more than 0.2 per cent. The Paymaster General claimed that inflation should be back on target by the autumn. He said: "If the Budget numbers work through... we can look forward to it being on target within the next couple of months."

The Budget cut in VAT on fuel will come into play next month. Meantime, the headline rate of inflation will be hit again this month by the third mortgage rate rise and the rest of the petrol tax is likely to be passed on. In food, higher tea prices should offset cheaper lamb. But most attention will focus on the prices retailers attempt to charge for new stock after the July sales.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5075.8	(+43.8)
Yield	3.26%	
FTSE All share	2376.39	(+18.87)
Nikkei	10099.11	(+274.53)
New York		
Dow Jones	8074.55	(+10.54)
S&P Composite	940.06	(+3.06)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	97 1/2%	(96 3/4%)
Yield	6.60%	(6.55%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor 3m	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.6778	(1.6923)
London	1.5783	(1.5907)
DM	2.5384	(2.5497)
FF	1.5572	(1.5525)
Sfr	2.4079	(2.4215)
Yen	183.00	(184.12)
E index	101.7	(102.1)

DOLLAR

London	1.8885	(1.8830)
DM	6.2525	(6.2790)
Sfr	1.5572	(1.5525)
Yen	116.13	(116.13)
S index	108.2	(105.9)

TOKYO CLOSING

15-day (Jan)	\$18.85	(\$18.75)
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GOLD

London close	\$338.95	(\$327.55)
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* denotes midday trading price

CMC to conduct loan book review

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

CITY Mortgage Corporation, the controversial lender that has been the subject of an Office of Fair Trading inquiry, yesterday launched a review of its entire UK loan portfolio.

CMC said it would be contacting all of its 33,000 borrowers and inviting them to submit their "concerns". The company, which lends to people with poor credit records, has provoked a storm of protest from borrowers for its use of dual interest rates, which can double monthly payments, and excessive redemption penalties.

Last month, the OFT outlawed both practices on all existing loans and threatened to withdraw the consumer credit licences of lenders who did not comply by September. Although CMC has abandoned these features on new loans it has yet to confirm whether it will withdraw them for existing borrowers.

CMC claimed it would investigate any complaints of malpractice by itself or its brokers and said it was leading the non-status lending industry in terms of best practice. However, one CMC broker, Capital Credit of Truro, is run by two directors who were involved with eight companies shut down by the OFT in 1989 for deceitful and oppressive lending.

The move was not welcomed by the 600-strong CMC Victims Association. David Milton, its solicitor, said: "Talk of an internal review is merely tinkering at the edges." Mr Milton advised borrowers with complaints to go to a solicitor with expertise in consumer credit. Mr Milton is seeking to get all CMC loans dismissed as unfair terms under legislation introduced two years ago. Although plans for a class action against the lender have been dropped by the association, he is trying to establish a national network of solicitors. CMC originated £281 million of loans last year, all of which were securitised by a subsidiary of NatWest.

Commentary, page 25

Pitcher to depart early after losing United battle

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND JASON NISSE

THE reign of Sir Desmond Pitcher as executive chairman of United Utilities is set to end in October after he bowed to pressure from institutional investors at an emergency board meeting of the group yesterday.

United is to search for a new non-executive chairman, with senior sources conceding yesterday that none of the existing board is able to take the reins. It is also expected that it will start to search for a chief executive to replace Derek Green, who only took the role last month after the dismissal of Brian Staples.

At the two-hour meeting, which was held at United's opulent new central London offices yesterday, Sir Desmond was told by two non-executives, Sir Peter Middleton and Jane Newell, that leading shareholders were demanding his departure.

The company had last week attacked Sir Peter, who is chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, for meeting shareholders on his own in the weeks since Mr Staples' departure. It has since emerged that Ms Newell, chairman of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and a former member of the Maxwell Pension Trust, also attended some of the meetings.

At the meeting yesterday, Sir Desmond fended off calls from some shareholders for his early departure, saying the issue would be dealt with in the previously announced review of the future management of the group which will be published in October. He argued that he offered stability at a time when United's electricity business was about to face extra competition.

However, under pressure, Sir Desmond agreed that he would step down when the review is published, more

than two years ahead of his intended retirement.

In a statement after the meeting, the company said: "The board is aware of the succession issues regarding the chairman and the chief executive and is taking action to resolve the issue."

The action will involve appointing headhunters to find a new chairman. Some shareholders suggested that Sir Peter take the role, but he said he was too busy. So too is Sir Dick Evans, the chief executive of British Aerospace, who joins United as a non-executive director next month.

Leading shareholders yesterday welcomed the move by United. "The issue was whether Sir Desmond would keep his grasp on the company," said one, "that has been resolved. The company can now go forward."

Sir Desmond, who last year was called "King of the Fat Cats" by Ian McCartney, who is now an industry Minister, had angered many in the City with his attitude in the wake of Mr Staples' sacking. Leading shareholders felt the move had not been fully explained and questioned the communication within the board and with the City.

They were also unhappy that Sir Desmond had declined invitations to meet shareholders after the annual meeting last month, when he faced demands from the floor to resign.

Instead, Sir Peter, who is the senior non-executive director, met shareholders. His meetings with institutions will continue. He has several more appointments running to the middle of next month. It is not clear whether Sir Desmond will attend any further meetings with his critics among the large shareholders.

Commentary, page 25



Jane Newell delivered shareholders' views Sir Desmond Pitcher leaves two years early



Sir Peter Middleton had private meetings with investors after the sacking of Brian Staples

Glynwed's £3m move to defend pension

By MARK COURT

GLYNWED International, the Aga cookers to steel distributing group, yesterday became the first company to make a provision to cover the shortfall in its pension fund following the removal of tax credits announced in Gordon Brown's first Budget.

Glynwed is making a £3 million hit to the charges, which prevent pension funds from clawing back 20 per cent of the tax on dividends. City estimates had put the cost of Labour's move as high as £75 billion.

Tony Wilson, Glynwed's group finance director, said: "Effectively it is just another form of taxation. They have decided to hit pension funds and it has to have an impact somewhere."

The £3 million charge, which will be taken in the second half, was revealed as the group announced interim pre-tax profits up 9.2 per cent to £47.3 million.

The charge to the pension fund, which had a surplus of 127 per cent in March 1995, took analysts by surprise. Until yesterday it was assumed that the removal of dividend tax credit would be offset by the reduction in corporation tax.

Glynwed lost £4 million on currency exchange in the first half, with similar losses anticipated in the second half. The interims were buoyed by the disposal of loss-making businesses and profits on property sales, leaving underlying operating profits up by only 0.5 per cent.

Glynwed is expected to acquire a steel distributor on the East Coast of the United States in the next few weeks and Mr Wilson said that the company was "feeling quite positive" about the future.

The interim dividend will be maintained at 4.4p, and is payable on December 3. The shares fell 10 1/2 p to close at 244 1/2 p.

De Beers back in family control

By ERIC REGULY

THE Oppenheimer family is to resume management control of De Beers, the world's largest diamond mining and selling group, after an absence of 13 years.

Nicky Oppenheimer, the grandson of Sir Ernest, who became chairman in the 1920s, announced at yesterday's interim results presentation in Johannesburg that he will replace Julian Ogilvie Thompson as chairman at the end of the year. His father, Harry, 89, who stepped down as chairman of De Beers in 1984, was in the audience when the succession plans were unveiled.

Nicky, 52, is currently deputy chairman of De Beers and chairman of the Central Selling Organisation, the De Beers arm that markets more than 80 per cent of the world's rough diamonds. The CSO is considered the world's most durable and successful cartel.

His appointment was a foregone conclusion, but it came earlier than expected. He made it known several years ago that he hoped Mr Thompson, who has agreed to become a deputy chairman, would remain as chairman "well beyond the year 2000".

Nicky had a rough ride at the CSO. He had problems signing a diamond marketing deal with Russia and saw the giant Argyle mine in Australia pull out of CSO last year.

The De Beers half-year earnings were \$507 million (£321 million), against \$482 million. It expects 1997 diamond sales to match 1996 in local currency terms, but to fall in dollar terms.

Financier accuses UBS of 'window-dressing'

By ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN EBNER, the Swiss financial predator, has turned his firepower back on Union Bank of Switzerland, one of the country's top three banks. The move comes after Mr Ebner succeeded in forcing the £6 billion merger between Credit Suisse, the investment

bank, and Winterthur Group, the insurer, this week.

Criminal charges filed by Mr Ebner's BK Vision investment vehicle have led to a fresh investigation into UBS by the Zurich District Attorney's Office.

While UBS has consistently denied any wrongdoing in its long-running battle with the maverick financier, the fresh

allegations are a further embarrassment to the bank, which has become deeply embroiled in the Nazi gold scandal and was shamed by an employee who retrieved from UBS's shredders sensitive documents relating to victims of the Holocaust.

BK Vision, one of the largest single shareholders in UBS, has accused Robert Studer,

UBS chairman, and other unnamed "corporate bodies" of window-dressing financial statements from the early 1990s to make them look better. This had led in turn to UBS making "untrue" statements about their commercial activities", BK Vision said.

The window-dressing allegation is a new charge and centres on a special SFR3

billion (£1.2 billion) provision by the Swiss bank last November to cover future risks in its domestic loan portfolio. UBS said yesterday that the provision was prudent and based on the continuing recession in the Swiss economy.

The latest charge follows a previous one made by BK Vision in March 1995 that, in voting to merge its two share

classes into one, UBS had wilfully mismanaged the purchase of its own shares. This was later followed by another allegation of the falsification of documents and providing false evidence in relation to the UBS share buyback.

Mr Ebner, whose battle with UBS began in November 1994, has an estimated 5 per cent stake in the bank.

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Antiquated formula proving hard to digest

BY ERIC REGULY

READER'S DIGEST, the most widely read magazine in the world, has always been a master of condensation. Editors seamlessly reduced whole books to a few pages. In a country famous for the gnarled attention span of its inhabitants, this formula, combined with "Good Country" family values, worked beautifully and fortunes rolled in decade after decade.

In recent years, the company has become expert at another form of condensation — that of profits. Since 1994, earnings and revenues have been in free fall, taking the shares down with them. With the market valuation halved, angry investors have been calling for a shake-up.

Earlier this week, a month after the Reader's Digest organisation cut its quarterly dividend by 50 per cent, James Schadt resigned as chairman and chief executive. His departure was "mutually agreed" and he has been replaced temporarily by George Grune, the former Marine who retired as chair-

man in 1995, while headhunters find a replacement. The shares duly rose more than \$3 to \$28 (E16.50), but Wall Street is not convinced the worst is over. Karen Ficker, an analyst with Fierman Selz in Manhattan, said: "We've been frustrated for more than a year over management's inability to turn the company around."

Reader's Digest

The organisation's problems are further evidence that even the mighty can fall. Dow Jones, owner of *The Wall Street Journal*, another famous name in American publishing, is going through a similar crisis.

Reader's Digest is the victim of demographics — its geriatric readership profile means it

must recruit some 5 million new readers a year just to maintain its circulation of 37.5 million. Intense competition and ageing readership are changing with the times. In the era of the Democrats, the magazine still runs articles such as "Must our prisons be resorts?" and "What health care crisis?", as well as timeless, syrupy features like "Un-

forgettable Shirley Temple". The rest of the empire is not faring well either. Its much larger direct-mail business, which sells books, videos and CDs, has stalled and analysts say the company has done little to exploit its international database of 100 million names, an asset that any large retailer would find invaluable.

There was a time when *Reader's Digest* paid little attention to profitability. Founded in 1922 with a \$600 investment, *Reader's Digest* treated its employees well and gave away most of its money. Employees were driven to work in company buses and did not have to work on Fridays in May so that gardeners could be tended. The headquarters, in Chappaqua, New York, are still decorated

with Chagalls and Matisse in what has been called the corporate world's finest collection of Impressionist art.

Two charitable trusts control the company — non-voting shares were sold to the public in 1990 — and institutions such as the Lincoln Center in New York and the Bronx Zoo have been the recipients of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Reader's Digest is an old business with old ideas. But it remains one of the world's best-known brand names and its international reach is impressive. Almost half of its sales are in Europe. Unless the company can find an executive team to rejuvenate the business, *Reader's Digest* risks becoming a quaint relic of the 20th century.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Alpha Airports names chief executive

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the duty free shops and air catering group part owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, has at last found a replacement for Paul Harrison, the chief executive who quit in April. Kevin Abbot, a director of Rexam, will take on the role from October 1. Mr Abbot, 43, has worked at Rexam since 1994, initially running international packaging and then global food and beverages packaging. He earlier spent 16 years at Redland, where he was a main board director from 1988 to 1994.

Rodney Galpin, chairman of Alpha Airports, said that Mr Abbot was selected because of his background in marketing and his knowledge, through Redland, of Asian markets.

Sweet smell of success

ESTÉE LAUDER, the cosmetics and fragrances company, reported higher earnings for the fourth quarter and full fiscal year, citing strong sales in all of its brands. For the year to June 30, sales rose 6 per cent, to \$3.4 billion (£2 billion) from \$3.2 billion last time. Excluding the impact of foreign currency translation, net sales increased 4 per cent during the year. Earnings rose to \$197.6 million, or \$1.46 a share, from \$102.9 million. Comparable per-share figures were not available, as the company went public in November, 1995.

Lloyd's conversion plan

STACE BARR, the Lloyd's members agency, yesterday issued the prospectus for its plan to convert traditional names to limited liability underwriting. Under the scheme, developed with the Angerstein Lloyd's fund, names will hold shares in a new underwriting vehicle after giving over their rights to participate on syndicates. Names will make their funds at Lloyd's available for continued underwriting, while Angerstein will make money available to meet a change in capital requirement at the insurance market.

Easynet confident

EASYNET, Britain's second-largest Internet access provider, has said it will break into profit in the last three months of the year, after generating a portfolio of high-paying business customers. The company, which has been in the red since its inception three years ago, failed to stem interim losses in the first six months of the year with a pre-tax loss of £724,000 (£727,000) on sales that grew from £2.48 million to £1.53 million. Its shares, which joined the Alternative Investment Market at 97p in March last year, fell 4½p to 79½p.

Saracen approached

SARACEN VALUE, the smaller companies investment trust, yesterday said it has been approached by fund managers wanting to oust the current team. The Saracen board on Monday met HSBC Asset Management, which claims to have the support of 50 per cent of Saracen shareholders for its bid to replace SFM, which has been running the trust since 1994. Saracen said: "The HSBC UK Smaller Companies unit trust has been in existence for nine months and we are concerned that this is a short period in which to judge a fund manager's ability."

Apple expecting loss

APPLE COMPUTER, in which Microsoft is investing \$150 million (£94 million), expects to report another loss for the fiscal fourth quarter ending in September, and said sales for the period will be lower than a year ago. Apple "does not believe it will return to profitability in the fourth quarter", the company disclosed in a filing on Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission. "The company believes that net sales will be below the prior year's comparable periods through at least the first quarter of 1998, if not longer."

Epwin turnover up 27%

EPWIN, the building products group that specialises in window installations, lifted pre-tax profits by 14.5 per cent in the six months to June 28, from £2 million to £2.3 million, on turnover of £43.6 million, up 27 per cent from £34.3 million. Earnings per share were up 15 per cent, from 6p to 6.9p. An interim dividend of 3.15p (2.9p) will be paid on October 13. The company, which has made four acquisitions in the past year for a total of £6 million, says that it is now ready to increase its market share.

NBS mutuality package

NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY's pre-tax profits fell from £4.6 million to £3.5 million for the first half of this year because of the society's mutual benefits package. Bill Midgley, chief executive, said: "Around £740,000 was awarded to borrowers who qualified under the loyalty bonus schemes and investors, both existing and new, who benefit from the society's interest rate structure. If we had maintained the same margin as the average converting society of 1.8 per cent, profits would have risen by 40 per cent."

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	2.25	Mexico	0.670
Austria Sch	21.67	Netherlands Gld	3.550
Belgium Fr	69.86	New Zealand \$	2.28
Canada \$	2.23	Norway Kr	12.69
Cyprus Cyp	0.907	Portugal Esc	306.59
Denmark Kr	11.78	S. Africa Rd	8.08
Finland Mk	9.93	Spain Ptas	252.29
France Fr	16.37	Sweden Kr	13.45
Germany Dr	3.10	Switzerland Fr	2.45
Greece Dr	488	Turkey Lira	289.59
Hong Kong \$	13.02	USA \$	1.085
Iceland	127		
Ireland Pt	1.16		
Israel She	5.90		
Italy Lira	3043		
Japan Yen	198.23		

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Rates for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Healthcare cuts knock Smith & Nephew

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CUTS in government spending on healthcare across Europe are hitting Smith & Nephew, which is also continuing to feel the impact of the strong pound.

The company, which makes Elastoplast plasters, skin products, artificial knees and keyhole surgery equipment, said that sales on the Continent were flat in the first half as Germany, France and Italy curbed health spending as part of their drive to qualify for European monetary union. A year ago, European sales showed a 9 per cent rise.

Chris O'Donnell, chief executive, said he expected to see a slight improvement in European sales in the second half. The strong pound knocked

£11 million from profits in the first half and will have a similar effect in the second half of the year. As a result, in the six months to June 28, pre-tax profit was £31.1 million, compared with £31.9 million a year ago. At constant exchange rates, underlying sales were up 5 per cent.

Analysts said that pharmaceutical companies were being hit less hard by the healthcare budget cuts in Europe as hospitals were bearing the brunt of the cuts. That meant sales of products such as artificial limbs were being affected rather than those of drugs, which were supplied mainly by general practitioners whose budgets were, as yet, relatively untouched.

Sales in America, which were down 3 per cent a year ago because of pricing pressures from powerful hospital groups, have shown signs of recovery. Sales were down 1 per cent in the first half, but were now "trending upwards", Mr O'Donnell said. The company is attempting to bring in selective price rises, but it is not yet sure whether they will stick. At present the US accounts for 40 per cent of group earnings, but that proportion could rise with the launch of Dermagraft, a new treatment for food ulcers suffered by diabetics.

It is still waiting for Food and Drug Administration approval for Dermagraft. Mr O'Donnell said that Dermagraft would cost the company £6 million in total this year to develop. Its launch in the UK is scheduled in October and the company is hoping for worldwide sales of £150 million in 2001.

Mr O'Donnell said that Smith & Nephew was continuing to look for acquisition opportunities and could spend up to £300 million on a single purchase. Any large acquisition would probably be in the UK, US or Europe and would be in the orthopaedic, keyhole surgery or wound-treatment areas. He declined to discuss speculation that the company had approached Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group, to buy DePuy, the artificial limb maker.

Adjusted earnings per share in the first half were 5.42p (5.08p). The company will pay a 2.4p foreign income dividend (£2.2p) on December 10.

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Brick by brick: Barbara Moorhouse, finance director, and John Morgan, chief executive of Morgan Sindall, the construction group, which yesterday reported a 48 per cent jump in pre-tax profits for

the six months to June 30, from £2.22 million to £3.28 million. Turnover rose 43.6 per cent, from £112.7 million to £161.9 million, and earnings per share rose 29 per cent, from 5.52p to 7.12p. The

company blamed problems with its refurbishing business on over-expansion. The business has been refocused at a cost of about £500,000. A dividend of 1.67p, compared with 1.35p, is due on October 1

BOC profits hit by strength of pound

BY PAUL DURMAN

BOC GROUP, the gases company, that recently put its healthcare business up for sale, yesterday became the latest victim of the strong pound, reporting a small fall in its nine months' profits.

Although underlying sales rose 5 per cent and pre-tax profits by 6 per cent, the sterling impact cut the reported total from £327.3 million to £325.4 million. Sales in the nine months to June 30 fell by £75 million to £2.92 billion. BOC's shares slipped 25p to 1145p.

The company estimated that sterling had cost it about £33 million in lost profits, £30 million of this because of the

translation of overseas earnings. Tony Isaac, finance director, suggested the total full-year cost could rise to nearly £57 million.

Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive, said BOC was seeing a lot of interest in Ohmeda, the healthcare business based around anaesthetic gases and equipment. BOC expects to receive preliminary bids around the end of this month, and hopes to complete the sale by Christmas.

The business contributed £35.2 million, a 2 per cent decline excluding currencies. Profits from medical devices were also damaged by exchange rate movements.

Celtic consoles fans with City success

BY CHRIS AYRES

CELTIC Football Club might have disappointed in the Scottish Premier League last season, but its performance in the City will have given consolation to fans who are investors.

In the year to June, Celtic turned a pre-tax loss of £1 million into a profit of £5.1 million on turnover of £22.2 million, up nearly 40 per cent from £16 million in the previous period. Earnings per share were £15.93 — compared to a loss of £3.49 — although investors will still not be paid a dividend.

Fergus McCann, chairman of Celtic, reassured fans that the club's profits would be invested in new players. "Foot-

ball success will come hand in hand with our success as a business," he said. His promise was immediately followed by the purchase of Regi Blinker from Sheffield Wednesday for £4.5 million.

The club also reported that attendances rose 37 per cent to almost 1.7 million last year, with sales of season tickets staying the highest at any British club.

Celtic's merchandising sales also continued to grow, reflecting the club's recent three-year sponsorship deal with Umbro. Celtic is now planning to build a retail megastore alongside a Celtic museum and visitors' centre.

Bula investor calls for inquiry

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

A SHAREHOLDER of Bula Resources, the troubled Irish exploration company, yesterday called for its affairs to be investigated after a series of disastrous escapades in Russia.

She, along with several other shareholders at the company's packed annual general meeting in a Dublin hotel, demanded that board members vigorously pursue their investigations into the multimillion pound losses suffered by

the company as a result of its Russian deals. Earlier, Tom Fitzpatrick, Bula's chairman, told shareholders that the company had submitted a £120 million (£85 million) claim against Goudens, the London solicitors, which advised the company on its failed transaction with AK-Oil, the Russian group, in 1994. Goudens has been invited to respond by August 30 after which Bula says legal proceedings will start in London.

He also revealed that the board has still not managed to discover the identity of the beneficial owner of the Mir Oil

company, with which Bula agreed to develop the controversial Salymyskoye oilfield in Russia in 1995. Mr Fitzpatrick said that at the time of the deal, Jim Stanley, then Bula's chairman and chief executive, gave written confirmation that he or no party connected with him had any interest in Mir.

So far Bula has discovered that a South African resident who was named as the owner of Mir at the time of the deal is no longer the owner. Investigations are continuing, he said. Glowing test results at Salymyskoye were also found to be incorrect.

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Unpopular Pitcher struck out



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

So, farewell then, Sir Des. Yesterday, the pugnacious Mr Mersey-side lost his battle to hang onto power and by the autumn he will be out of the boardroom of the hapily named United Utilities. Single-handedly, he has done more to put a stop to the coupling of the roles of chairman and chief executive than all the committees on corporate governance combined.

Sir Desmond does not believe in power sharing but institutional investors do. They are unhappy with the notion that one man can determine the shape of a company's strategy and, preside over its implementation, particularly when he presides as Sir Des does, with an arrogant disregard for the opinions of others.

In theory, a contingent of strong non-executive directors should be able to keep a strong corporate boss in check. But clearly this has not been the case at United Utilities, where it was only after shareholder discontent over the running of the company reached screaming pitch that Sir Peter Middleton and his colleagues were spurred into action. Even seasoned corporate operators may have quaked at the prospect of going into battle against Sir Desmond, although the imminent arrival of British Aerospace's punchy Sir Dick Evans on the United Utilities board might have provided some interesting confrontations.

They will not be necessary now, since the headhunters are about to go searching for a new, and non-executive chairman for the company. But the unsavoury episode will certainly have ensured that investors step up their objections to a concentration of power in a single being.

Sir Ronald Hampel and his colleagues chose not to outlaw the idea of a combined chairman and chief executive. Instead, they called for the appointment of a tough independent non-executive director to be the voice of investors. What the United Utilities case indicates is that investors can be driven into exercising those vocal chords and, when they do, they demand that the roles be split.

Not all those who currently combine the chairman and chief executive roles exhibit megalomaniac tendencies, but however well behaved and effective they may be, they are likely to be the last of the line. If they wish to avoid controversy, they may already be planning sensible statements on the subject of succession, for in many cases these individuals are so closely identified with the success of their companies that there are legitimate concerns as to how the

business will cope without them. John Rithlat at British Land, Sir Richard Greenbury at Marks & Spencer and Garry Weston at Associated British Foods have all served shareholders with style. They are not in the habit of losing top managers with the unnerving speed that Sir Desmond did. But they would each do well to think of which two individuals could best step into the single pair of shoes that they will one day have to vacate.

Inflation deduction with touch of Alice

Surprise was the element missing from the inflation figures yesterday. Unusually high prices for vegetables and rising petrol prices may have contributed to a slight increase in the headline figure but, thanks to the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, we know there is nothing to fear.

Last week the MPC performed the impressive verbal feat of talking down the pound by indicating its confidence that the economy had been brought back into line and more interest rate increases would be unnecessary in the short term. We can safely assume that this opinion was based on advance warning of the picture that we were all allowed to see yesterday, and a peek at the Bank's inflation report which is about to be made public.

Just what the figures really mean depends on which set you choose to peer at most closely. Ironically, the headline figure of 3.3 per cent is swollen as a result of those measures that the Chancellor introduced to stop the spending boom and quell a potential hike in inflation. Alice in Wonderland herself might have spotted something awry here. So, on to what is known as RPI, which strips out the excise increases and produces a July figure unchanged on June.

Blame the weather for smudging the figures and strip out unseasonal food price increases, and it is possible to argue that inflation was actually marginally lower last month.

At this point, however, Alice might begin to think that inflation could vanish, like the Cheshire cat's smile, if one chose to ignore everything that had risen in price. On balance, the message in the figures is that inflation is under control. And away from the governmental calculators, that is also the conclusion. In the high street there is no evidence of windfall spending pushing up prices, albeit that it is bringing retailers some welcome extra business. This week's figures from manufacturing indicated that there is no upward pressure on prices coming from that direction, with raw material costs falling significantly over the past month.

It is enough to make Alice wonder whether the MPC

needed that last hike in interest rates. It will penalise industry, which needs to invest, and which is already bemoaning the agonies of the strong pound. But consolation comes from the fact that at least it was only a quarter of a per cent, and not the full point or more suggested by those who wanted drastic action from the newly independent Bank.

Borrower beware — buyer beware

Legislation will never be able to prevent some people borrowing more than they can afford. When the culprits are would-be property moguls, they are merely gearing up, and if they go bust the chances are that they will be back to ask another banker for help before long. But when the borrowers are individuals aiming to survive rather than make a fortune, the consequences of overborrowing can be personal catastrophe.

Most lenders are aware of this simple truth. While they could take refuge in the *caveat emptor* approach to business, they try to tread a careful line between what people want to borrow and what

they can afford to borrow. After all, there is little point in shovelling out the cash unless you will be able to pull it back, complete with interest.

But it remains the case that many personal borrowers remain oblivious to the level of interest that will be charged, their concern being only to get their hands on the money they need. Thus it is that lenders serving the most disadvantaged sections of society charge the highest rates of interest.

Yesterday, one of these companies — truly the lender of the last resort — said it would review its entire loan portfolio.

If it has a view to ever recovering the loans, it may find some nasty surprises in its researches. But the likelihood is that it has already pocketed a profit by selling on those loans to another institution. *Caveat emptor*, as they say.

Gnomes of UBS

FRESH from his victory in persuading Credit Suisse to merge with Winterthur, Martin Ebner is renewing his attack on UBS. The Swiss bank has successfully kept him at bay for three years, but he is not one to give up. His "summer vision" for Winterthur having been accomplished, the UBS gnomes may feel they need to treat him a little more tactfully. Any ideas for carefully watering down his stake would be courting danger.

General Accident boosted by Provident deal

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

GENERAL ACCIDENT, the composite insurer, announced a 35 per cent leap in interim pre-tax profits to a record £260 million yesterday as last year's acquisition of Provident Mutual boosted an already strong performance in the UK.

The addition of Provident Mutual, a Scottish pensions company, increased life and pensions sales by 19 per cent to £105 million while profits rose 37 per cent to £63 million.

On general insurance, GA is the first UK player to declare an underwriting profit this year, up £8 million to £19 million on slightly reduced premiums of £771 million. While home and property cover delivered growing profits, and its Lloyd's marine business broke even, losses from motor insurance increased as claims and low-cost competition surged.

Bob Scott, group chief executive, praised the UK results in the context of universal competition. "It used to be the case that one area would balance out another. Now all our business units are reporting increased competition."

Worldwide general premiums fell £20 million to £2.21 billion as a result. The company is making 600 staff redundant in the US where losses fell back to \$79 million. Corrective action in Canada,



Bob Scott said GA faced competition in every area

including withdrawing sewerage coverage in Ontario, reduced losses to \$26 million. The company has withdrawn its personal business in Denmark and The Netherlands and is reviewing its position in other countries after incurring a £20 million loss in Europe. Realised investment gains more than doubled to £334 million as GA reduced its

weighting in equities from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.

The company is paying a foreign income dividend of 12.5p, up 10 per cent. It is undecided on whether to buy back shares to reduce its capital surplus. It wants issues around advanced corporation tax and FIDs clarified first.

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Holliday sees 64% surge in profits

By MARK COURT

HOLLIDAY CHEMICAL, the specialty chemicals group, began its rehabilitation in the City by announcing a 64 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits yesterday.

The profits surge, from £8.1 million to £13.4 million, was driven by Uquif, its Spanish pharmaceutical subsidiary, which manufactures Ranitidine, the active ingredient for the generic rival to Zantac, Glaxo Wellcome's stomach ulcer drug that came off patent in the US last month.

Ranitidine contributed £4 million to profits in the first half and Michael Peagram, Holliday's chairman, said the product had "excellent growth prospects".

Mark Robbins, joint chief executive, said the product would contribute at least £4 million in the second half. "How much it moves forward is up to the open market, which is difficult to forecast. We don't know how many people will go to market over the next few years," he said.

An interim dividend of 2.5p, compared with 2.1p, will be paid on October 1.

Holliday has given its shareholders a rollercoaster ride since its flotation in 1993. Brokers believe that Ranitidine might help to restore the company's reputation in the City.

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Sedgwick denies search for a merger partner

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

SAX RILEY, chairman of Sedgwick, the insurance broker, insisted yesterday the company would remain independent after speculation grew that it was looking for a merger partner.

Earlier Mr Riley had unfavourably compared Sedgwick's strategy of constantly aiming to grow in size and turnover with Willis Corroon, a rival, whose chairman John Reeve has publicly stated his opposition to consolidation in the sector. The City took this as a hint that Sedgwick had

approached Willis Corroon and been rebuffed.

Mr Riley also denied that Sedgwick's consultancy business had suffered as a result of its "naming and shaming" over pensions mis-selling by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, in May. Ms Liddell criticised Sedgwick and Legal & General for their attitude to the pensions review attempting to clear up to 500,000 potential cases of mis-selling by the end of next year.

Mr Riley said: "We have been in touch with all of our clients and they support our position. We are continuing to pick up new business." Half-year results showed consultancy revenues had risen £121 million to £113.8 million. He insisted Sedgwick, which has 6,000 pension transfer cases to review, would meet the Government's timetable.

The strong pound knocked £7 million off the group's interim profits. On constant exchange rates pre-tax profits rose 16 per cent to £66.5 million. The dividend remains at 3p.

Halstead hit in Australia

SHARES in the James Halstead Group, the floor coverings and tents maker, tumbled from 242½p to 205p yesterday after a profits warning (Adam Jones writes).

The problems centre on Driza-Bone, its Australian wet-weather clothing subsidiary, which has been hit by a stock build-up.

Halstead blamed the strong Australian dollar and waning government support for exporters. It said profits could fall 20 per cent below market expectations for the year to June 30 of £9.5 million before tax.

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City Centre looking at franchising

By DOMINIC WALSH

CITY CENTRE Restaurants, best-known for its Garfunkel's, Deep Pan Pizza and Caffé Uno brands, is formulating plans to expand overseas through franchising.

James Naylor, chief executive, said the company received "huge numbers of calls from all over the world from people keen to franchise our brands" and he had recently appointed an executive to investigate opportunities.

The news came as Mr Naylor unveiled pre-tax profits, excluding asset disposals, up 18.1 per cent to £6.3 million in the first half of 1997. Turnover was 21 per cent higher at £74.9 million, while like-for-like sales were ahead 4.1 per cent.

Some 25 restaurants were added during the half-year, 13 from the acquisition in April of the Est Est chain for £13 million. Another 28 will have opened by the end of the year.

The interim dividend, payable on October 14, is 0.45p.

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Drug tests lift shares at Cortecs

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Cortecs International jumped 20½p to 236½p yesterday when the drug development company reported "exciting" results from clinical trials of its Pseudostat vaccine for chronic bronchitis.

Last Thursday the company reported good results from tests of Macrotain, the osteoporosis capsule that Cortecs will shortly file for approval with European regulators. Its shares were at just above 150p earlier this month.

A five-month phase 2 trial involving 91 chronic bronchitis patients found that those who had taken Pseudostat suffered roughly one tenth the number of infections as those who had received the placebo.

Michael Flynn, president of Cortecs, said: "We had not expected the result would be quite so dramatic."

There are five million UK bronchitis sufferers and Cortecs estimates the potential market for Pseudostat at between \$500 million and \$1 billion.

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Life Premiums	956	863
Underwriting Result	(166)	(105)
Investment Income	280	272
Life Profits	63	46
Operating Profit before Taxation	260	193
Profit Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	410	226
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	40.3p	26.5p
Interim Dividend per Ordinary Share	12.5p	11.4p

- Record first half operating pre-tax profit of £260m (1996: £193m).
- Continued UK underwriting profitability of £19m (1996: £11m).
- Profit contribution from life operations up by 37% to £63m.
- Worldwide underwriting deficit reduced by 37% to £66m.
- Growth in investment earnings in local currencies of 7%.
- Interim dividend up 9.6% at 12.5p per share.

A copy of the Interim Announcement will be posted to Shareholders on 16th August 1997. Copies may also be obtained from the office of the Secretary at the address below.

General Accident plc

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A copy of the results is available on Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

The Keswick star is eclipsed at Hong Kong's new dawn

Family charm offensive may have been left too late says Fraser Nelson

As the crowds celebrated the handover of Hong Kong to Beijing, Henry Keswick was in one of the island's hospitals. Chinese mystics might see more in his misfortune than merely a shoulder shattered in a fall, and see a symbol of an ailing dynasty.

The Keswick empire, created 163 years ago and progressing from opium shipments to a vast array of investments, ranging from insurance to Kwik Save stores, now seems unlikely to survive intact for a future generation.

In Hong Kong, its businesses are under threat of local takeover. In Britain, Sir Chips Keswick is struggling to rebuild the reputation of Hambro's, where he is executive chairman. Henry's wife, Tessa, who used to be able to glory in a powerful role advising the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is now having to work hard to find political allies in the new administration.

In short, the Keswicks are beginning to look as if all their appearances in the gossip columns have eventually brought on them the curse of *Helio* magazine: life is looking tough.

Jardine Matheson — which has for generations been the family's financial powerhouse — has found itself without friends in high places in its traditional base, Hong Kong. Unless they forge some new contacts soon, the brothers could be forced to give up their multibillion pound empire, and cut the dynasty off completely from Hong Kong. But after the way they bungled their relationship with the Chinese Government in the run-up to the handover, that may prove too difficult.

Although the red flag has been hoisted over most of



Henry Keswick's biggest coup has been his meeting with Zhu Rongji



Jonathan Powell Tessa Keswick advised former Chancellor



Sir Charles and Carla Powell: close to former PM



Sir Chips Keswick Simon Keswick

Hong Kong's leading business institutions. Jardine Matheson still controls 40 per cent of the offices in the colony. Its other interests are so vast that it can be argued, Jardine is still running the former colony as a kind of involuntary joint venture with Beijing.

But, having spent the best part of the past decade thinking of ways to escape Beijing's clutches, transferring their company's listing to Singapore and moving its legal base to Bermuda, while keeping themselves in London, establishing a happier partnership looks unlikely.

Beijing has scowled at the brothers from a distance. When the brothers led the flight to domiciles outside Hong Kong, Chinese officials were all but meaningless.

So when Labour took office, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, faced a dilemma. Having insisted that unem-

employment was higher than the Conservatives had maintained, would the new administration now demand that a more accurate measure of unemployment be used, and risk accusations that unemployment went "up" under Labour?

Blunkett's team is ready to decide. The Government's keynote Welfare to Work jobs programme makes the decision even more important: if unemployment is not accurately measured as Labour defines it, then the success (or otherwise) of the New Deal will not be demonstrable.

Officially, unemployment is calculated in two ways. First, the numbers out of work and claiming benefit are counted every month. This largely administrative check then forms the monthly "claimant count" (CC), which, adjusted to take account of seasonal variations, is used as the main measure of unemployment. Secondly, every three months the Government carries out the Labour Force Survey (LFS) — a sample survey of 60,000 households, asking detailed questions about labour market activity. Unemployment is measured to United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment, as it is known. ILO unemployment follows a similar pattern to the CC measure, but at a consistently higher

level, especially as economic recovery has progressed.

What Labour ministers now have to decide is whether they will shift to a monthly LFS, widely regarded as a more accurate measure of real unemployment, or in Government will shrug off the position they held in making the move. Unemployment analysts regarded it as significant when last month ministers and officials laid such stress on the ILO data that they presented and explained it before the claimant count.

Whitehall officials are readying a set of changes that will also significantly how the City, business and

others receive and absorb the unemployment figures. First, the Government will combine the CC and ILO data into one release of information; secondly, the presentation will focus on key data, rather than trying to present figures on every single labour market measure; and thirdly, the Government presentation will try to give a coherent picture of the labour market, rather than just a series of unconnected data sets. Officials are unsure as yet about how far down this path to go. The Office for National Statistics is considering providing its own statistical, rather than economic or political, view.

The decision will be seen by users of government data as a test of Labour's commitment to statistical and economic legitimacy. There is an opportunity to restore political, business and public credibility to data vital to measuring economic performance.

nothing in these rumours, and the departure of Ross was entirely amicable and Edwards and Ross are the "best of friends". Apparently the business was not big enough for the both of them. Well, Cleckheaton is a small town.

● THE Office of National Statistics has realised what soccerphobes all over the country knew already — that the football season is starting earlier. Increases in season ticket prices are now included in August inflation figures, not those for September. Given that the cost of going to a top flight game has gone up more than 220 per cent in the past decade, this could explain why this month's inflation figure is the highest for two years.

● PULLING AWAY DOWN in Cleckheaton (that's near Bradford, by the way), something is stirring. John Ross, chief executive of Charles Sydney, the posh car dealership, has suddenly departed, taking a £130,000 pay-off in his pocket. No explanation, nothing, apart from an interesting rumour in the motor trade about a merger with Syner Group, the Nottingham BMW franchisee headed by Frank Syner, the former British sports car champion.

According to Raymond Edwards, the executive chairman of Charles Sydney, there is

direct interest. More vulnerable is Hongkong Land, with its lucrative property interests. Its weaker links with Jardine Matheson make it a more attractive target.

Mr Li's approach comes at a time when the Keswicks are beginning to mount an unconvincing charm offensive to the Chinese. They have been attempting a kind of corporate glasnost with the Chinese. But they have resisted China's invitation to return the listing of Jardine's shares to Hong Kong, which many see as the essential olive branch.

Henry's biggest coup to date was meeting Zhu Rongji, Senior Vice-Premier of China, who he said assured him equal treatment in all business dealings. However, Jardine still resolutely differs from other "hongs". It has not attempted to exploit growth in China by selling stakes to mainland businesses.

Even with the tacit "no hostilities" assurance from the Chinese, the Keswicks will find the investment community far less forgiving. So much time has been spent seeking ways to avoid the Communists getting a hold of their company that its financial performance has slipped.

One need only look at a couple of their chosen escape pods to see why Mr Li's offer may be welcomed. Looking for safe vehicles to transfer some capital into, Trafalgar House and Kwik Save were chosen as safe vehicles. Both performed dismally and were derided in the City.

Mr Li is preparing to hand over his businesses to his two sons, Victor and Richard, and it is likely that he has not decided just what mischief he intends to make.

If, as he insists, his 3 per cent stake in Jardine is just an investment then he has already made some £40 million paper profit on the speculation alone. If he is still musing, he can command some tight property deals from the brothers with the unspoken threat of a hostile bid looming.

Or, he could leave them to the communist jungle for a few years, and see how they enjoy running a living museum of capitalism in a country where they will never again be part of the ruling elite.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Why the next bull market will be bonds

This column argues that when the bull market finally tops out (probably, but not certainly, quite soon) the bond market will take up the running. This may sound silly. How can there possibly be a bull market in bonds when we are told not only that markets may crash any day, but that inflation is rising, and that the next rise in money rates is only a matter of time? Simply because all interest rates — long, medium and short — are still unreasonably high by historic standards. What went up hasn't come down, and gravity rules in the end.

The only trouble with historic standards is that you need a long memory to know what they are: and my own memory, a longish one, has only now been jogged by Ian Shepherdson, HSBC's man in New York (His bullish forecast is for US Treasury bonds, but his reasoning ought to apply, broadly, to Britain too.) It is supported partly by a chart that puts current long yields into perspective. Long yields have fallen by about half since their peak in the early 1980s,

forget in the next few years. What will persuade them is simply the yield. In cash terms a US saver can more than triple his income simply by switching out of equities into bonds — and if inflation remains low — the New Era now proclaimed by Alan Greenspan of the US Fed — that income will become more and more tempting as the years pass.

We may never quite get back to the golden age of the Sherlock Holmes stories, when every heiress worth murdering had her fortune in consols (yielding a princely 2½ per cent) but goods prices were falling in those days, and had been for the best part of 40 years. But we should still be travelling hopefully back towards that golden age: so a bond portfolio should produce handsome capital gains as well as a comforting income. This is the more certain in this age of fiscal virtue, because even as the appetite for bonds revives, the supply of new ones will be rapidly shrinking.

"So what", you may be asking? Am I supposed to get excited about a prospective profit of, say, 50 per cent if I hold bonds for the next decade, when equities deliver as much every few months? Of course not; but this is really where we came in. The New Era is no longer an eccentric minority view: most analysts expect inflation to stay down. But the reason why this has not much excited the bond market up to now is that the equity market has been so irresistibly tempting. That will change if and when the crash comes: the bond bull market will be kicked off by the "flight into quality", which is the mark of every financial panic.

Should you simply buy a US bond fund, or could all this be applied to Britain too? I believe it could — once we get over the twittering caused by the building society windfalls, and by a rise in petrol prices which is actually deflationary, whatever the headline figures say. The only trouble for the private saver is income tax; but a switch into bonds now, and a switch of those bonds into a personal equity plan next year, looks very safe.

6 We may never quite get back to the golden age of the Sherlock Holmes stories

Ready to be counted over joblessness?

Philip Bassett looks at a tricky decision for ministers over moves to improve the credibility of unemployment data

The Government will today announce the latest unemployment figures, which ministers hope will see a new fall in the numbers out of work and claiming benefit. But behind the announcement, Labour is shaping up to a tough decision: how unemployment should be counted in the future.

In opposition, Labour was vociferous in attacking the Government over unemployment — partly on its record (jobs being lost, people going out of work) but partly, too, on how those trends were recorded, or "fiddled". Labour claimed that the Conservative Government had changed the basis of the unemployment figures so many times the statistics were all but meaningless.

So when Labour took office, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, faced a dilemma. Having insisted that unem-

employment was higher than the Conservatives had maintained, would the new administration now demand that a more accurate measure of unemployment be used, and risk accusations that unemployment went "up" under Labour?

Blunkett's team is ready to decide. The Government's keynote Welfare to Work jobs programme makes the decision even more important: if unemployment is not accurately measured as Labour defines it, then the success (or otherwise) of the New Deal will not be demonstrable.

Officially, unemployment is calculated in two ways. First, the numbers out of work and claiming benefit are

counted every month. This largely administrative check then forms the monthly "claimant count" (CC), which, adjusted to take account of seasonal variations, is used as the main measure of unemployment. Secondly, every three months the Government carries out the Labour Force Survey (LFS) — a sample survey of 60,000 households, asking detailed questions about labour market activity. Unemployment is measured to United Nations' International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment, as it is known. ILO unemployment follows a similar pattern to the CC measure, but at a consistently higher

level, especially as economic recovery has progressed.

What Labour ministers now have to decide is whether they will shift to a monthly LFS, widely regarded as a more accurate measure of real unemployment, or in Government will shrug off the position they held in making the move. Unemployment analysts regarded it as significant when last month ministers and officials laid such stress on the ILO data that they presented and explained it before the claimant count.

Whitehall officials are readying a set of changes that will also significantly how the City, business and

others receive and absorb the unemployment figures. First, the Government will combine the CC and ILO data into one release of information; secondly, the presentation will focus on key data, rather than trying to present figures on every single labour market measure; and thirdly, the Government presentation will try to give a coherent picture of the labour market, rather than just a series of unconnected data sets. Officials are unsure as yet about how far down this path to go. The Office for National Statistics is considering providing its own statistical, rather than economic or political, view.

The decision will be seen by users of government data as a test of Labour's commitment to statistical and economic legitimacy. There is an opportunity to restore political, business and public credibility to data vital to measuring economic performance.

Soft teeth

PROFESSIONAL associations, denounce just love 'em? Remember when the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales fined Richard Stone and Michael Jordan, of Coopers & Lybrand, £1,000 each for not declaring conflicts of interest when they took on the Polly Peck insolvency?

Well the Insolvency Practitioners Association is now showing its teeth. It has been looking into the role of Peter Phillips, the liquidator of Robert Maxwell's estate who ran up £1.63 million of fees for his firm, Buchler Phillips, and Nabarro Nathanson, the law

firm, while recovering just £1.67 million of assets. This was the situation described by Lord Justice Ferris as "profoundly shocking".

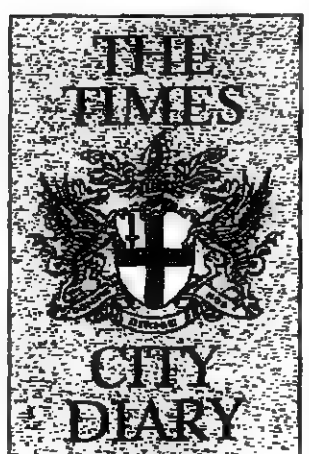
So what does the IPA have to say about it. "We have previously, at Mr Phillips' own request, investigated the conduct of the receiver in this case," said David Sapte, IPA president, "and have found that he acted entirely appropriately."

Sapte, adds helpfully, that the IPA is happy to look at the case again. Don't call us, we'll call you.

● GRAHAM HOOPER, the investment director of Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser, has found a novel way to predict stock market movements.

Hooper recently bought 38 Jacob sheep to keep the grass in his paddock down. But he has noticed that the sheep also show a surprising talent for indicating whether the FTSE 100 index will rise or fall. "If the sheep droppings are damp, I've noticed the market tends to fall, and if they are dry, it's likely to go up," he says.

On Monday morning, when the FTSE dropped nearly 65 points, the droppings were showing definite signs of sog-



market's bounce back later on in the day? Hooper says: "The sheep missed me. There was a dew on the ground."

Pulling away

DOWN in Cleckheaton (that's near Bradford, by the way), something is stirring. John Ross, chief executive of Charles Sydney, the posh car dealership, has suddenly departed, taking a £130,000 pay-off in his pocket. No explanation, nothing, apart from an interesting rumour in the motor trade about a merger with Syner Group, the Nottingham BMW franchisee headed by Frank Syner, the former British sports car champion.

According to Raymond Edwards, the executive chairman of Charles Sydney, there is

No old pals

OF COURSE at the moment the bedside reading of all responsible directors of public companies is the report of the Hampel committee on corporate governance. Brian Evans, the chief executive of Wyevalde Garden Centres, has clearly taken it to heart, as I found perusing the small ads.

Under "business opportunities" it emerges that Wyevalde is on the lookout for two non-executive directors. "I know it's unusual, but why not?" Evans tells me. "But with all this corporate governance asking for independent non-execu-

tive, we thought we'd get away from the old pals act and cast our net a bit wider." He advertised in "business opportunities" not "situations vacant" because Wyevalde wants people who already have jobs.

It will save a few bob on headhunters' fees too.

● THE Office of National Statistics has realised what soccerphobes all over the country knew already — that the football season is starting earlier. Increases in season ticket prices are now included in August inflation figures, not those for September. Given that the cost of going to a top flight game has gone up more than 220 per cent in the past decade, this could explain why this month's inflation figure is the highest for two years.

● PULLING AWAY DOWN in Cleckheaton (that's near Bradford, by the way), something is stirring. John Ross, chief executive of Charles Sydney, the posh car dealership, has suddenly departed, taking a £130,000 pay-off in his pocket. No explanation, nothing, apart from an interesting rumour in the motor trade about a merger with Syner Group, the Nottingham BMW franchisee headed by Frank Syner, the former British sports car champion.

According to Raymond Edwards, the executive chairman of Charles Sydney, there is

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Hirst fans can get pickled

Abstract

Shares close near best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
150.00	148.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
150.00	148.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
150.00	148.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
150.00	148.00	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
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150.00	148.00	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES				
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Daniel Rosenthal reports on the 40-year-old LP recordings that are coming back to haunt their now-famous casts



Trevor Nunn (right) with Peter Woodthorpe recording *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the ADC



Ian Holm (left) and Richard Johnson at the 1970 re-recording of *Othello* for better sound quality

Long playing, long lasting Shakespeare

Never in the field of audio drama was so much recorded by so many over such a long period. In 1957, the British Council decided to finance the production of unabridged LP versions of the complete works of Shakespeare. These were to be records which could be studied and enjoyed across the globe.

Dr George "Dad" Rylands, fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and passionate advocate of clear, precise verse-speaking, was hired as director, with the late Harley Ussil, director of the Argo record label, as his technical supervisor. By 1964, the pair had co-ordinated the recording of all 37 plays, released on Argo without so much as an "Ay" or "Oh" missing. *Hamlet* and *Richard III* weighed in at five LPs each, *The Comedy of Errors* was a snug double album with "bonus" sonnets on the fourth side.

Next week PolyGram, which holds the rights to the Argo Shakespeare, will begin a major reissue of the recordings, with *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (the best-selling Shakespeare in print) re-released on double cassette. More titles will follow in 1998.

The cast lists reveal how Rylands used Cambridge undergraduates who had appeared at the Arts Theatre in his Marlowe Society productions (among them Ian McKellen, Derek Jacobi and Trevor Nunn) alongside some of British theatre's most illustrious names: John Gielgud and Peggy Ashcroft starred in *Much Ado*, Michael Hordern was Prospero.

Here, Rylands and some of his former colleagues recall a marathon venture which, according to PolyGram's Alex Mitchison, would today be "impossibly expensive".

■ **Dadie Rylands**
Nineteen-fifty in October, he took numerous Argo roles, including *Angelo* in *Measure for Measure*.

"Our first 'studio' was the Amateur Dramatic Club (ADC) theatre in Cambridge, which was far from sound-proof. Whenever a dog barked or a plane flew overhead we had to go back and re-record. It was enormously frustrating. When we moved to the Decca studios in north London, in

1960, things became more straightforward.

"For me, it was absolutely essential that the recordings should be unabridged, to give teachers of Shakespeare the real text. I found it very difficult to get what I wanted in those plays which were hackneyed, such as *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, or unfamiliar to the public, such as *Troilus and Cressida*.

"Nevertheless, the recordings were very well reviewed

and, I hope, very much enjoyed. I remain proud of them because they represented such a tremendous undertaking."

■ **Peter Orr**
Deputy director of the British Council's recorded sound unit in the Sixties, edited the recordings and acted.

"The sessions at the ADC were very civilised — some of the professional actors were happy to accept half a case of claret instead of a fee.

"We recorded everything out of sequence, arranging the schedule according to which professionals were available on particular days. We worked on *Richard III* and the three parts of *Henry VI* concurrently because they share common characters. This left one very distinguished actor totally confused. In the midst of all these roses battles, he came up to Dadie and said: 'Please could you tell me which side I'm on?'"

■ **Margaret Drabble**
Novelist, was *Imogen* for the Argo *Cymbeline*, a few months after playing the part for the Marlowe Society.

"I had a very bad stammer as a young person and it came back more severely during the recording of *Cymbeline* than it ever did on stage.

"In the theatre I learnt to sidestep it. But perhaps because for a record you don't have the 'high' of live performance and are concentrating so much on your voice, I found the recording very difficult.

"My own voice sounds so awful to me that I've never dared listen to the *Cymbeline* record."

■ **Pronella Scales**
Actor, was in her early twenties when she took several parts, including *Cordelia*, and *Rosaline* in *Love's Labour's Lost*.

"I had been acting professionally for about six years when I auditioned for Dadie in London. At that stage, directors tended to cast me as a 'character actress' — which

simply means you are not pretty enough to play the romantic leads. So it was good to be offered the chance to play *Cordelia* and *Rosaline*.

"I learnt an enormous amount from Dadie, and from actors like William Devlin [who played Lear] and Irene Worth [Cleopatra]."

■ **Richard Johnson**
Actor and producer, played *Othello* and *Antony*.

"Dadie was a genial master of ceremonies at the recordings. He gave us general notes, we ran the play through a couple of times and then just got on with recording it."

"Ian Holm was excellent as Iago [when the original *Othello* was re-recorded in 1970 for better sound quality], very sly and insinuating. I think we were rather a good duo, and have always regretted that I never played *Othello* on stage.

"I greet the reissues with a certain trepidation because the style of acting is bound to have changed. That's the thing with recordings and films: you are preserved rather like a fly

in aspic and it's not usually a very edifying spectacle."

■ **Trevor Nunn**
Incoming National Theatre director, played several parts, including *Gower* in *Henry V*.

"I had to do Gower with virtually no rehearsal. He had come to the battlefield straight from school — which, at 19, I more or less had."

"As undergraduates we found it hard to believe that we were suddenly among very good professional actors, contributing to how scenes were to be interpreted. To work with someone like Irene Worth was a gift beyond price."

"The recordings continue to demonstrate everything that is good about presenting, with clarity and attention to detail, texts that have been revered for centuries. They are superbly spoken, but they were not acted to the point where there is revelation or surprise."

■ **The Argo Shakespeares** are re-released on August 18 on PolyGram Spoken Word, price £7.99 per play

Problem left unsolved

A director who is able to express perception through invention can show this "problem" play making almost perfect sense. Fairytale simply married to human complexity, is never going to prove an ideal match, but more can be done to persuade us that the attempt is worth the try than Irina Brook manages in this production, setting off from here on a four-month national tour.

The fantasy element comes from Helena, poor daughter of a dead physician, who dares to love her benefactor's son, Bertram, and claims him as a reward after curing the king of France of his fistula. Reality contributes Bertram's outrage at being so allotted. He goes off with his false friend Parolles to the Tuscan wars,

whether Helena follows in disguise, tricks him into going to bed with her, and all ends well.

The crucial role is Helena, and the crucial relationship that between Bertram and Parolles. The latter has to contain something which young Bertram relishes but must outgrow; the former must show herself to be as worthy, virtuous, beautiful and all the other superlatives that her supporters continually tell us she is.

Brook decides to set the play in an African market. Traders display wooden toys, hardware, leather goods, and into this busy world two white women wander, looking for souvenirs. Merriment ensues. Then one of the traders suggests they tell a story, like Mickey Rooney in the movies: right here! And off we go.

Africa supplies too little to justify its presence. There is drumming, and a metal bowl struck sonorously with a rod. Helena's miracle cure is shown in shadow play behind a sheet. Magical arm-waving seems to be what does the trick, and Rachel Pickup's arms are remarkably elegant. In the early scenes her speech is fleetingly varied yet her displays of ardour, intensity leaning forward, turn hers into a curiously old-fashioned performance. By contrast, she is almost stilted with Michael Grecco's Parolles in his banter about virginity, ending the scene sitting legs astride on his groin. Some may say this justifies calling her "dear perfection", but it turns her into a sexual cheat.

Leifer's mockery of Parolles goes for nothing, and too many of the lines are spoken without discernible knowledge of their meanings. After the achievements of Brook's last two productions this is a disappointment.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Fiesta reborn in new sound world

SPEAKING of his new work, *Feria*, Magnus Lindberg (who has created some of his most exciting music using computers) declared his faith in the orchestra, comparing it to a synthesizer desk: "The pitches are so beautifully arranged before you... you can create 'super instruments' by mixing combinations of instruments."

Lindberg, approaching the orchestra with an ear suffused with other sonic possibilities, shows what can be done with the existing sonorities. The orchestration of *Feria*, with its clouds of chromatic string semiquavers, twittering winds and translucent harp and piano arabesques, is pure *fin de siècle* from a very European composer.

One challenge of *Feria*'s premiere was to bring out all

the detail in the Albert Hall. Winds were often masked by strings, and a significant harp line lost. Nevertheless, *Feria*'s tight trumpet fanfare burst in with all the fiesta energy of its Spanish title. Its sequence of six structural "regions" returned during the work, giving it a satisfying sense of unity, but nothing is quite what it seems. The familiar, on careful inspection, is actually used to alienate: a beguiling allusion to Monteverdi's *Arianna's Lament* rose up and glistening major chords ap-

peared as symbolic cadences rather than harmonic homecomings. With a dozen performances and a recording ahead, *Feria* has a bright future.

Saraste and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra brought a deep, swinging measure to the Sibelius Violin

Concerto but Christian Tetzlaff, whose intense, almost fevered tone sounded oddly antique against the rounder orchestral sound, drove it harder and faster. Plunging headlong through the first-movement cadenza, he never relaxed into the broad melody that follows. And though he played an electrifying allegro, one missed introspection in the adagio and, most of all, rhythmic subtlety.

It was a tall order to play a Beethoven symphony the night after Gardiner's riveting performance of the Ninth. But Saraste delivered a most enjoyable *Eroica*, notable for its melting horn solos and dead centre tuning despite the sweltering hall.

HELEN WALLACE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CHRIS OFILI

Age 28.

In demand: Painters are back in vogue again, and he is very much a painter, turning people into dazzling patterns of coloured dots. When still a student at Chelsea he won a prize at the Whitworth Young Contemporaries. He has since won a following in mixed shows (most recently *About Vision: New British Painting in the 1990s* at MOMA Oxford), has shown solo in New York, London and (next) Berlin, will be in the RA's *Sensation* show, and is preparing for a big new touring museum show early next year.

Does he see art as essentially visual? "Of course. If you go into the National Gallery

Who starts by asking what the conceptual basis of the *Wilton Diptych* is?

The *Wilton Diptych*? "Don't you think it is the most beautiful thing? It almost melts on your tongue. Where can you get more pleasure than that?"

So he believes art should give pleasure? "What's the point of making it if it doesn't? I want to do something which is fun for me, and I hope will be fun for other people too. Serious as well, of course. But not dreary or boring."

Beginnings: Born in Manchester, he wanted to be a furniture designer, but as soon as he embarked on the foundation course and

was it. He studied under very unrestrictive teachers, who believed students should start by finding their own way. Then Chelsea and the Royal College, prizes and exposure. He found a London dealer, Victoria Miro, for himself, totting his portfolio.

A nest of the avant garde, surely? "I don't really think about definitions. I have trouble enough finding out who and what I want to be."

Do his Nigerian origins make a difference? "I'm sure it's all in there somewhere. But so is Manchester. I did go on an art scholarship to Zimbabwe recently, and found I felt pretty affected. I saw these extraordinary patterns of coloured dots in some of the early cave paintings, and that set me off."

That places the dots. How about those brown lamps on the sides of his paintings? "Oh, the elephant dung. I damn, I had a lot pointed out to me in Zimbabwe and somehow found it inspiring. Ambitions: "To go on living one day at a time, enjoying myself with what I do, and hoping that comes across to the rest of the world."

JOHN RUSSELL
TAYLOR

Mondrian at the Tate

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Centenary summer programme in association with THE TIMES

Opera to please the balletomane; Tippett and Tharp honoured; too many tricks spoil the Bard. Plus Festival art shows

A fun night out with a frog in drag

Say, we could do the show right here in this bar! This is the lack-of-point of Mark Morris's production of Rameau's *Platée* for the Royal Opera, and why not? The Prologue is after all set in a vineyard and subtitled *The Birth of Comedy*, and, while detached from the main action, shows assorted low-lives planning to invent a new kind of entertainment, which they indeed do.

Platée (1745) is not Great Art, but in its chic, sophisticated, inconsequential heartlessness it is the progenitor of a peculiarly Gallic form of theatre. Rossini (*Comte Ory*), Offenbach, Chabrier and Poulenc are among Rameau's offspring.

Adrianne Lobel's beautifully designed 1940s-ish bar, the sort of place where the wearing of trousers is not obligatory, gradually fills up with reassuringly recognisable types — a sailor, a policeman, a drunk (Thespis), a decorously tipsy showgirl, Fifth Avenue types slumming (Mormus and Thalia), and someone called "Dyke" (I thought that was a word not used in polite society nowadays). We are in the world of Jerome Robbins's *On the Town*, and the milieu of 18th and 20th-century dance are neatly combined.

And dance is what it's all about: at first it seemed a pity for the Royal Opera chorus to be confined to the pit while Morris's 16 dancers enthusiastically mime their words; but the wit, the freshness, the sheer zaniness of his choreography soon sweep doubts away. The action of both Prologue and opera proper

OPERA

breaks off at the slightest excuse, with the words "on dance" and, since Rameau was surely the first great composer of dance music, it's hard to cavil.

The airy textures, the rhythms, the forward impulse must set even the most recalcitrant operatic toe tapping, certainly as delivered by the ROH Orchestra under Nicholas McGegan's hyper-intellectually spirited direction.

A terrarium at the back of the bar links Prologue to opera, which shows Jupiter pretending to fancy the vain, hideously ugly marsh nymph Platée in order to teach the pathologically jealous Juno a lesson. Here Morris and his costume designer Isaac Mizrahi let their fantasy run riot. I particularly enjoyed duets for turtles and snakes to Rameau's *musette* *Miruet*, and a routine for the Three Graces (one of whom is a chap) that would stop Canova in his tracks. Only the elaborate

rate dance for children and philosophers threatened to topple over into the cuteness that is Morris's Achilles heel.

As may be gathered, the show is not exactly over-directed in an operatic sense — the subsidiary singing characters are left to get on with it — but at its centre is a magical, beautifully sung performance of the drag title role by Jean-Paul Fouchécourt.

The diminutive French tenor's make-up and costume are mastery: he's a little green, pear-shaped frog in a diaphanous tea-gown barely concealing a pink belly-button, modest rope of pearls and lorgnette dangling from diamond bracelet. With huge frog feet and hands, Fouchécourt manages to preserve the dignity of Alastair Sim and the chaste flirtatiousness of Jack Lemmon on similar assignments. In a word, a classic travesty impersonation, and the moment when the joke is revealed, his frock is torn off and he hops back into the marsh is genuinely shocking, a momentary passing cloud in this hilariously heartless entertainment.

It's Fouchécourt's show, but François Le Roux (Jupiter), Diana Montague (Juno) and Mark Padmore (Thespis and Mercury) sing idiomatically and clearly, their words always audible, and Nicole Tibbels (*La Folie*) has great fun with her parody of an Italian coloratura aria, hurling out top Ds and even an E like fireworks. A delightfully civilised, undemanding evening, sponsored by TSB Bank Scotland.

RODNEY MILNES



Mark Padmore (in blazer) and the excellent Jean-Paul Fouchécourt (right) with various Satyrs in Mark Morris's production of Rameau's *Platée*

Tippett with too many strings attached

THE Edinburgh Festival does not have a great record as far as new music is concerned. It can, however, take legitimate pride in bringing two of the most successful of Sir Michael Tippett's scores into the world — the *Fantasia Concertante* on a Theme of Corelli in 1953, and the *Concerto for Orchestra* in 1963. So it was good thinking, in this fiftieth birthday year, to link those two pieces with *A Child of our Time* in an all-Tippett concert.

Or so it seemed until the public demonstrated that it was not enormously interested in the event, and until we heard what Richard Armstrong and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra made of the two

Edinburgh scores. Neither the *Fantasia Concertante* nor the *Concerto for Orchestra* is easy to perform, least of all when they must share rehearsal time both with each other and with a big choral work. On the other hand, the problems of balancing and blending the complexities of the string counterpoint in the *Fantasia Concertante* are well known and should surely not result in a performance that sounds as though the composer did not know his job.

The more clearly defined melodic shapes and textural profiles in the first movement of the *Concerto for Orchestra* encouraged a correspondingly more convincing performance from the RSNO wind, harp and

CONCERTS

performance. Richard Armstrong clearly does not believe in indulging sentiment or finding easy consolation in this work. His brisk tempi occasionally threatened the security of the ensemble, but they also contributed to an interpretation admirable for its rigorous frankness, and its resigned rather than radiant refuge in philosophy at the end. It put much stress on the resources of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus but the lines remained unshakably firm, the textures clear. The soloists too — Christine Brewer, Michelle De Young, Ian Bostridge and Alastair Miles — were all integrated into the illusion-free approach to the work. The Tippett echoes had scarcely

drained away when the Usher Hall was in use again for something else. András Schiff is playing through the first book of the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, on the piano and in numerical order. In a pair of eagerly awaited late-night recitals, I welcome this pianist's attitude to Bach's keyboard music. Time and again in the first 12 of the *Preludes and Fugues* musical history opened out in front of him, mainly in the direction of Chopin but also towards Debussy and even Rachmaninov. What those pianist composers found there cannot be ignored by a pianist as sensitive as Schiff.

GERALD LARNER

Three uneasy pieces blow hot and cold

DANCE

Tharp
Playhouse

By giving her new company a name as exclamatory and presumptuous as Tharp, the American choreographer Twyla Tharp immediately sets up the highest of expectations. Add to this her 30 years in the choreography business and it is fair to assume that a master of making dances has something really special in store for us.

Well, not quite. What is really special about Tharp (sponsored by ScottishPower) is the dancers, not the dance. Tharp has moulded a company of 11 young performers whose verve and versatility are remarkable. For this talented ensemble she has made — with varying degrees of success — three disparate pieces.

Tharp has collaborated with Philip Glass before and the result, *In the Upper Room*, was one of the most popular ballets of the 1980s. Their latest collaboration, *Heroes*, trades on the energy of their previous work and seeks to find a new context for it. The score, described by the composer as a "symphonic ballet", is a variation on themes from David Bowie and Brian Eno's 1970s recording of the same name. But with its mawkish sentiments and cheap pretensions this is not vintage Glass. Neither is it vintage Tharp. Although she obviously intends some kind of statement about the nature of heroes and heroism, it is too self-conscious and muddled to make its point. This being Tharp, how-

ever, there is much to admire: the struggle between the feisty individual and the selfish ensemble; the constant shift in emotional posture; the palpable unease that subverts the athletic confidence. But it is not enough to make sense of this community of heroes. Community is also at the core of *Sweet Fields*, which is danced to early American religious hymns to the 18th-century compositions of William Billings. But unlike *Heroes*, in which the community can be violent and unyielding, *Sweet Fields* sings the beauty of a community united in benevolence by its religious fervour. Images of hard work, simple pleasures and even death are imbued with a radiant belief that whatever the travails of a God-fearing life, there is strength and comfort in knowing that you are never alone.

Tharp the Broadway babe is at work in the programme closer, too, a snazzy, creatively lazy bit of show dancing that pays homage to Highway 66, the almost mythic road that cuts across America from Chicago to California. Tharp herself travelled this road as a child when her family moved from Indiana to California, and autobiography permeates her new work, although you do not need to know her family to appreciate the types. Set to "bachelor pad music" from the 1940s and 1950s it illuminates the postivism that propelled thousands along the highway to the American dream.

Best of all, though, is the ongoing duet between Julie Stahl and Andrew Robinson (ex-London Contemporary Dance Theatre). They court like giggling teenagers, quarrel like petulant young lovers and make it up in a highly charged reconciliation. Familiar battle-of-the-sexes stuff from this choreographer, perhaps, but Stahl and Robinson are so jazz-cool and so sexy that suddenly their lovers' spat gets to the very heart of what Tharp is all about.

DEBRA CRAINE

Patchy Puritanism stolen by scenery

For his first production in Britain, the French director-designer Stéphane Braunschweig has certainly come up with a striking set. It is a vast timbered drum that creaks round to reveal a confusion of splendidly patterned and dark, twisted staircases. Beneath are spidery corridors and beside them is a reproduction of Masaccio's *Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Eden*.

That is an apt image, given that *Measure for Measure* concerns a Puritan attempt to punish disobedient lovers. Indeed, the set as a whole suits a play in which there is plenty of watching, spying and sly manipulation.

But did I also see the Puritan himself, Paul Brennan's Angelo, creeping about with a pair of thick black wings sprouting from his funeral suit? I think

THEATRE

Measure for Measure
Royal Lyceum

I did, and it struck me as the sort of attention-getting yet undeveloped touch that heralds a tricky, tendentious production.

As it turns out, the news from the Lyceum is not that bad. Nevertheless, Braunschweig the director is in patchier form than Braunschweig the designer.

The twin successes of a slow, over-long production, sponsored by the Bank of Scotland, are Brennan's Angelo and the nun he tries to seduce, Lisé Stevenson's Isabella. He is a neat, suspiciously correct

young man who quickly replaces diffidence with the hardness of power; she makes you believe in the energetic, fiery woman beneath the wan-looking novice.

I have never seen more effective treatment of the notoriously difficult scene where Isabella inadvertently bewitches the un-self-aware Angelo. Something about this pale, intense girl, listening so carefully as he engages her in argument, touches the intellectual's underused heart. The words "pray you, begone", usually just a curt dismissal of her plea on behalf of her condemned brother, becomes a protest against a sexual pull he does not care to feel.

Suddenly their faces are inches apart. Suddenly her hands, innocently extended, are near his lips, and their smell hits his nose. The erotic

tension is unacknowledged but palpable — and dramatically as useful as it could be.

Nothing else in the evening is as subtly done, and some things are decidedly unsuited. There are silly jokes, such as having Isabella's mother superior react to the offstage sound of Danny Sapani's *Lucio* as if she were going into orgasm. The mix of costumes — Elbow as PC Plod, an FT-reading *Lucio* in white suit and exotic

fur coat, Pompey as a blend of Druid and Greek philosopher, the rest of the Viennese riff-raff in Jacobean garb — is distracting. But the real problem is Jim Hooper's Duke.

True, the character's conduct does not stand up to modern psychological or political scrutiny. What sort of prince would disguise himself as a friar and watch his deputy reactivate the draconian laws he has ignored? But this does

not mean that a man described as unusually temperate can be reduced to a narcissist who takes glee in playing barney games with his subjects. Shakespeare's Duke has two serious purposes: to expose Puritan hypocrisy and to show that mercy can coexist with justice. Here we feel the full gravity of neither.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Lisé Stevenson and Paul Brennan: twin successes of a slow, over-long production

A visit to the past and other countries

VISUAL ART

The only one of the four major National Galleries exhibitions at this year's Edinburgh Festival which is not in some way clearly related to the Scottish art scene is *The Face of Denmark* at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. But even that is part of an exchange which will, later this year, take a show of portraiture in Scotland to Copenhagen. John Russell Taylor writes.

The show covers the history of portraiture in Denmark from 1751 to 1966. Most of the most famous artists, particularly from the early 19th-century "Golden Age" of Danish art, are represented: classical Thorvaldsen busts, comfortably provincial paintings by Eckersberg, Lundbye and Koblke. Later things fade away: such

late 19th/early 20th-century figures as Kroyer, Lundström and Willumsen are not essentially portrait painters, and the nearer contemporaries are on the whole as lacklustre as their British equivalents, without even an Auerbach or a Freud to lighten things up.

Two of the more interesting shows elsewhere are concerned with Scots in China. At the Royal Museum there is *Precious Cargo*, a three-century history of Scottish involvement with the China trade. The story revolves mostly around the Pearl River delta, where many Scottish traders went to make their way in the world. It is intriguing to find out how many of the important

figures were Scottish, but the real point of the exhibition is to show as many pieces of art as possible while pointing up the influence that Scottish patronage had on export art actually made in China, as well as the influence exerted in Scotland by such examples of Chinese art as found their way there. The effect on local ceramics is particularly striking. The Edinburgh-born photographer John Thomson (1837-1921), known as "China Thomson", in fact spent only ten years of his early life in the Far East, but the pictures he took then were the making of his professional reputation. *Captured Shadows*, the show at the National Library of Scotland, demonstrates him to have been, consciously or not, the founder of photo-journalism: the pictures of na-

tive peoples from the Straits settlements, never before exhibited, are straight ethnography, and the pictures of Angkor, which he was the first ever to photograph, have aesthetic as well as documentary value. But it is the photographs of Canton and Peking, and the scenes he captured during his great journey up the Yangtze that really grab the imagination.

● The Face of Denmark, in association with the Danish Cultural Institute, is at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (0131-624 6202) until Aug 31.
● Precious Cargo, sponsored by Cable & Wireless, is at the Royal Museum of Scotland (0131-225 7534) until Jan 4.
● Captured Shadows is at the National Library of Scotland (0131-226 4531) until Sept 28.



The goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, photographed by Henrik Saxgren, on show in *The Face of Denmark*

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Italian ate charge

Head and Miesque, right, land the 1987 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket, a favourite course of the former French champion

[illegible]

809	(2)	LEAH SPEAR (H. 1000) D. Elsworth 8-12	A. McCosker
810	(13)	QUINTUS 14 (6. Mylech) P. Cole 8-12	R. Cochrane
811	(4)	SAWDONE 32 (Stoneham Stud Farms Ltd) R. Hannon 8-12	Pati Eddery
812	(11)	SHERPA (White Horse Racing Ltd) D. Elsworth 8-12	P. P. Murphy (3)

014 (14)
016 (9)

4 TURNHELD PROSPECT 26 Turnheld Pros P & M: 8-12
WINTERTIME (Hagdon) Thoroughbred Racing Ltd.: Gains: 9-12

BETTING: 9-2 Krazy Knight 5-1 Domico, 6-1 Classic Manicure, 7-1 Don Moonraker, 5-1 Close Turnheld Prospect 10-1 Arnie Al Can, Double Backer, Salsano 14-1 others.

1855-1900 CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

KRUPPI NIGHT best Stone Di Destiny 1914 in 6-year record race at Monmouth (1st), 1914 AT DAWN best Sandy Shore 10 in 10-trip record made at Hedgesville (9), 20th CLASSIC MACAW best 1914 in 10-trip record

term with QUINUS 5-1 2nd, QUINUS 3d 2nd 2nd in 10-trip record race at Monmouth (1st), 1914 SANTONE 6-1 4th 4th 4th 4th 4th in number one course and distance (good to heavy) with CLOSE

race at Sandown (71, good to soft) DARK MOONDANCER hand and 41 3rd of 6 to Trans Island in conditions race at Newbury (71, good to

4.45 NEWPORT FILLIES HANDICAP

[illegible]

ARLETTY Fm 1/31 of 11 to Merisor Strike in marden at Bath (1m 3). good. **CURZON STREET** 101 7th of 10 to Desert Beauty in marden here (1m, good to soft). **TART** 41 2nd of 8 to Kinsel Breche in marden at Follisstone (1m 41 good to firm) on pencilcote salt. **SAVU SEA** about 151 4th of 11 to Zempoor in marden at Newmarket (1m 41, good to firm). **BATHE** IN LIGHT 41 2nd of 12 to Saddler's Hope handcup at Bath (1m 21, good to firm). **KEEPSA** neck 2nd of 15 to Prince Alex in handcup. Remark: 1m 41 good. **an PERSIAN BLUE** better offer about 91 5th and BEWITCHING LA 13th better offer 111 2th. Selector: **BATHE** IN LIGHT

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS	
Bath	Monday's
100	100
90	90
80	80
70	70
60	60
50	50
40	40
30	30
20	20
10	10
0	0

2.00 (1m Syd) 1, The Executor (J Red, 5-1 lev), 2, Pegasus Bay (7-1), 3, Noapric (11-2), 17 m. NR. Foreign 1st, 1st R O'Sullivan. Toté (6.80 2.10, 1.90, 2.30 DF 635.50, Inc. 72.60 CSF 32.51)

2.30 (1m Syd) 1, Absolute Utopia (B Doyle,

(11-1): 4, Magic Lady (13-2) Sharp Dec 7-2
1/4m 18 min., w/ M J Berry: Top \$11.30,
\$2.40, CSF \$2.20, \$2.00, DF, \$39.30 Trn
\$191.20, GSR \$66.46 Trcast \$289.36
3.00 (51 11yd), 1. First Village (K Darley,
14-1), 2. Jitted (2-2), 3. Oh Heba (100-
30) 17 min. 2-1, M J Berry: Top \$13.00,

3.20 (2m 11 34yd) 1. Hillenwick (A Poll, 5-1);
 2. Sudes (1-1) 3. Castle Courageous (8-1)
 1/5 ran 11. Bl J King Tote 08.00. £1.70.
 £1 to DF £2.50 CSF £8.74
 4.00 (5l 11yd) 1. Moushoush (P Bloomfield,
 2-1) 2. Tynan Dawn (5-2) 3. Pride Of

4.20 (50 161y) 1, Eleven's Duke (J, Dettor 4-1), 2, Bromstone (7-2 161y) 3, Sada (8-1) 4-w/1 7-2 16w, 12 1w, 1 1 R Harmon. Tote \$5.30, \$2.10, \$1.30, \$2.00, DF \$2.60 Tm: \$20.80 CSF: \$17.42 Tract: \$102.77 LSE: \$56.42

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Storm From the East
16.15 Sandown Park

Next best: Cape Cross
(7.15 Sandown Park)

5.00 (1m 2f 144yd) 1. Pennys From Heaven
12.5-2.2 Yearling (12.3), 3

Rising Spray (7-1), Passing Strangers 3-1
lay 11 ran nk 11 H Candy Toe £11.00.
C240, C250, C270 DF £36.60 Tne
£129.30 CSF £128.66. Tncast £992.03
Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part won Pool of
£3,419.58 carried forward to Salisbury
Jockey).

Blaggers: £14.60. Crustlers: £2.40.

Southwell
Going: good to firm

2.15 (5m 110yd ch) 1. Mighty Mero (A Dobbins, 9-4), 2. Bayard (3-1), 3. Professor Page (6-1) Shikaree 2-1 fav 6 ran 31 13 16
4.8 (5m 110yd ch) 1. Bayard (3-1), 2. Mighty Mero (A Dobbins, 9-4), 3. Professor Page (6-1) Shikaree 2-1 fav 6 ran 31 13 16

E10.30. CSF E8.97
2.45 (3m 4d) 110yd chi 1. Prerogative (R Johnson, 8-11). 2. Brambleberry (11-8 lov). 3. The Toaster (19-8) 4 can 3'nd dist G L Moore Tote E7.20 DF E7.40 CSF E18.34
3.15 (2m h-p). 1. Choccolac Ice (Michael Brennan, 5-1); 2. Roderich Hudson (2-1 lov).

\$5.70; E1.40, E1.50, E1.10 DF. \$4.90 Tno
 \$8.70 CSF \$14.11
 3.45 (3m 110yd hds) 1. Southerncross-
 patch (R Johnson, 10-1); 2 Belle Buek (5-1)
 3. The Sky Padre (7-2) Demonic 21 1-av
 (Jury) 10 ran Hd \$1 P Bowen. Tote \$12.10
 \$6.71, E1.40, E1.60, DF. \$4.90 Tno \$13.40
 Secret Come 2-1 lay 12 ran NR Felt
 Line 3, 1 1/1 C Dwyer Tote \$4.80 \$1.9
 \$2.00 \$2.30, DF. \$15.00 Tno \$51.10 CSF
 \$25.29
 8.20 11m 31 183yd) 1. Lookout (M Halls,
 2). 2. Harmony Hall (9-1) 3. Arving (8-
 lay) 9. 3rd 1 1/1 R Hite Tote \$4.80 \$1.5

4.15F (2m 4f 110yd hdd) 1. Frontier Flight IS
Wymie 11-4 (J-lav) 2. Sheldore 113-21
Script (4-1) Battleship Bruce 11-4 (J-lav) (put
5 min. 1 1/2 2-4 Miss L. Siddall Total \$3.00
\$1.10, \$2.70 DF \$9.10 CSF \$17.30

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY
REGUL

BEVERLEY: Trainers: D Loder, 23 winners from 38 runners, 59.0%; R Armstrong, 4 from 8, 50.0%; M Bell, 9 from 33, 27.3%; P Wahyn, 3 from 12, 25.0%; D Money, 9 from	SALISBURY 101 20 BEVERLEY 102 20 SANDOWN 103 20 HAMILTON 104 20
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from 10 nodes. 30.0%, K Darley, 58 from 2S1.
23.5%, M Fenton, 15 from 66, 22.7% D

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

CRICKET

Jayasuriya continues dominance of India

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SANATH JAYASURIYA continued his magnificent form, scoring a scintillating 199, while Aravinda de Silva stroked his sixth century in successive Test innings on home soil as Sri Lanka made India toil in Colombo yesterday.

Sri Lanka, who were trailing by 43 runs after the first innings of the second Test, made 415 for seven in their second innings before declaring and leaving India a victory target of 373, which was reduced by 49 as their openers, Ajay Jadeja and Navjot Sidhu, made good use of the 13 overs Sri Lanka bowled in the final session of the fourth day. Jayasuriya followed his 340 in the first Test with another monumental effort, while De Silva added another 120 runs to the 146 he scored in the first innings. The toothless India attack was treated with scant respect by this pair, who put on 218 for the third wicket at the rate of a run a minute as Sri Lanka hurried towards a declaration.

Jayasuriya hit 21 fours and two sixes from 226 balls, missing his double century by one run when he was bowled by Abey Kuruvilla trying for yet another boundary. The left-hander, playing his eighth Test in 1997, became the first batsman this year to pass

1,000 in Test cricket when he reached 85 shortly before the lunch interval. With a tally of 1,114 and three return Tests against India to come later this year, Jayasuriya has a chance of beating Viv Richards's record total of 1,210, made in 11 matches in 1976.

De Silva's fourteenth Test century continued a magnificent run that had seen him compile scores of 168, 138 not out and 103 not out against Pakistan and 126, 146 and 120 against India in his past six Test innings at home. He was seven short of joining Jayasuriya in the 1,000-run bracket for the year when he holed out in the deep, at which point the Sri Lanka captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, closed the innings.

Sri Lanka, resuming at 77 for one, scored 86 from 25 overs in the morning session, when India's lone success was the stumping of Roshan Mahanama, another of their first Test tormentors, by Nayan Mongia off the bowling of Aril Kumble. Jayasuriya and De Silva helped themselves to 119 runs in 25 overs between lunch and tea but the final session saw Sri Lanka lose three wickets for 11 runs and a fourth 20 runs later. Ranatunga, who came in after Jayasuriya's dismissal, and Ramesh Kaluwitharana both ran themselves out and Mahela Jayawardena was caught behind off Kuruvilla as Sri Lanka slipped from 363 for two to 394 for six.

Jadeja, who has hit seven fours in his 35 and Sidhu then showed they believed the target was very attainable as they took toll of the three Sri Lanka bowlers used to set up the possibility of an enthralling finish. India will start the first day needing 324 from a minimum of 90 overs.

For the fourth successive day, play had to be extended by an hour to accommodate the stipulated 90 overs. The match referee, John Reid, of New Zealand, will decide after the match whether to penalise both teams for their slow over-rates.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First Innings 302 (P A de Silva 146, D Mwanza 4 for 78).

Second Innings

S L Jayasuriya c Kuruvilla b Kumble 199
A de Silva c Mwanza b Kumble 120
P A de Silva c Mwanza b Kumble 120
R Mahanama c Mongia b Kumble 103
A Ranatunga not out 77
R S Kaluwitharana not out 86
D M Jayawardena c Mwanza b Kumble 7
W P U J C Vasantha not out 5
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 1, nb 1) 17
Total (7 wickets) 415

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-146, 3-147, 4-206, 5-274, 6-304, 7-345.

BOWLING: Mwanza 15-0-72-0, Prasad 16-1-75-0, Kumble 24-0-70-3, Kumble 38-0-156-2, Ganguly 3-0-16-0, Prasad 10-0-0.

INDIA: First Innings 278 (S C Ganguly 147, S R Tendulkar 125, M Mahidhan 4 for 89).

Second Innings

A J Jadeja not out 35
N S Sidhu not out 12
Extras (b 2) 2
Total (no wicket) 394

BOWLING: Vasan 5-1-20-0, S C de Silva 5-2-7-0, Mahidhan 3-0-22-0.

Umpires: R Koorban (South Africa) and B C Cooley (Sri Lanka).



Jayasuriya, who has scored more than 1,000 Test runs this year, on the attack during his innings of 199 in Colombo

Barnett bats in players' defence

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

The most interesting story to emerge from the summer's cricket has not been reported. It has not been reported because nobody could tell it. Nobody could tell it because Kim Barnett was bullied into silence and silence, as we know, begets guesswork. The guessing game is over. Perhaps we'll now hear the tale loud and clear.

The sequence of events that led to Dean Jones's abrupt departure from Derbyshire in June has been veiled by a fog of supposition, selective leaks and media indifference. Derbyshire, who have the lowest membership of the 18 first-class counties, are not a fashionable club.

Yet the story is still worth hearing, because what happened there impinges on the status of cricketers and the rights of members. Barnett, the Derbyshire captain for 13 seasons until last year, when Jones was lured from Melbourne to Birmingham, was certainly thought so. He wanted people to know the circumstances that led to Jones's decision, before the constraints proved too severe.

That remained the case until last Thursday, when Derbyshire revealed that the £1,500 fine they levied on Barnett for

of players he had led to second place in the championship last year, then — vamoosh! — he scurried.

Barnett, unsurprisingly, wished to present the players' response to this generalised attack and, for his pains, he was hauled over the coals by a committee that preferred to "see all and say now". He prepared an appeal to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), whose discipline committee was to hear it on July 11 until everybody realised that Horton, the principal player, was in Florida!

Since then, the repercussions of this affair have served as a tacky sideshow to the cricket. Les Sillman, the coach who came with Jones from Victoria, was effectively demoted to chief flag, although he continues to draw a full salary and is allowed to live in a house supplied by the club. Ian Buxton, a former club captain, resigned as chairman of the cricket committee and relations between members of the full committee, not all of whom appear to support Horton, are less than harmonious.

Derbyshire have yet to win a championship match and it is reasonable to conclude that this civil war hasn't helped the players much. Without an appointed captain, with a first-team coach paid to do nothing

with the first team, they are up a gum tree.

This little spat reflects the world of professional cricket in a feudal light. On one hand, players are told that they cannot defend themselves against allegations of unprofessionalism; on the other, members of a "members' club" are deliberately kept in the dark about what goes on in their name. This business has been festering for two whole months and nobody is any wiser.

Derbyshire are not dealing here with any old malcontent. Barnett has made more runs, and more hundreds, than any batsman in the club's history. As captain, he delivered two one-day trophies and took them to third place in the championship at a time when the club's very existence was in peril. He has served cricket rather better than it is at present serving him.

Guidelines to players, drawn up by the ECB with regard to public utterances, advise that "any comment made must be fair and reasonable and must not involve a personalised attack on another cricketer, umpire, administrator or county".

Barnett has made it clear all along that all he wishes to do is tell the whole story. So come on, Kim, we're all ears.

Derbyshire are not dealing here with any old malcontent.

Barnett has made more runs, and more hundreds, than any batsman in the club's history. As captain, he delivered two one-day trophies and took them to third place in the championship at a time when the club's very existence was in peril. He has served cricket rather better than it is at present serving him.

Guidelines to players, drawn up by the ECB with regard to public utterances, advise that "any comment made must be fair and reasonable and must not involve a personalised attack on another cricketer, umpire, administrator or county".

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Pakistan A taught a hard lesson by Bailey

BY DEREK HODGSON

NORTHAMPTON (Pakistan A won toss): Northamptonshire beat Pakistan A by 60 runs

ROB BAILEY'S punishing 153 not out knocked the stuffing out of Pakistan's talented, precocious youngsters. They had been able to match the counties in limited-overs matches, but not here.

Bailey, in tandem with Richard Montgomerie, savaged the Pakistanis' bowling, with the Northamptonshire captain hitting five sixes and 15 fours.

Pakistan A, having exceeded their bowling time, could bat for only 46 overs. They started well, but once Salim Elahi and Hassan Raza, the Test batsmen, had been dismissed, they were never again within target range.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A Forgham c Raza b Abdul 2
R J Warren c Mohammad b Abdul 81
R R Montgomerie c Raza b Hassan 21
D J C Sales c and b Shoaib Malik 153
R J Bailey not out 153
A J Pennington c Shoaib Malik b Abdul 7
J Jones not out 26
Extras (b 4, w 8, nb 10) 200
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 300
17 M B Bailey, J A R Blythe, D Farnham and J F Brown did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-20, 3-61, 4-226, 5-258

BOWLING: Shoaib Malik 10-0-55-0, Abdul Razzaq 10-0-55-3, Ashraf Mahmood 10-0-40-0, Shoaib Malik 5-0-15-1, Ali Hassan Rizvi 3-0-34-0, Hassan Raza 7-0-51-1, Mahjood Jamshed 1-0-15-0

PAKISTAN A

Mahjood Jamshed c Sales b Farnham 20
Salim Elahi c Pennington b Jones 41
Mohammad Wasim c J M B Bailey b Brown 59
Hassan Raza c Warren b Pennington 2
Farhan Akbar c Forgham b Blythe 37
Ashraf Mahmood c J M B Bailey b Blythe 21
Abdul Razzaq b Brown 19
Ali Hassan Rizvi not out 13
Shoaib Malik c Forgham b Farnham 12
Extras (b 3, w 2, nb 6) 11
Total (8 wickets) 240

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-89, 2-86, 3-85, 4-131, 5-171, 6-198, 7-201, 8-210, 9-229

BOWLING: Farnham 5-0-41-2, Blythe 7-1-51-2, Jones 5-0-40-0, Pennington 6-0-51-1, Brown 10-0-47-2, R J Bailey 3-0-17-0

Umpires: J W Holder and R A White

Sussex may trip at Edgbaston hurdle

BY SIMON WILDE

NOBODY can argue that Sussex have not given good value for money in the NatWest Trophy. Having started the season at 66-1 to win it, their odds now stand at 10-1, a tribute to the way they rode roughshod over Shropshire, Lancashire — the holders — and Derbyshire, each time batting second.

It could be argued that their price has moved too far, in view of what faces them in the semi-final today against Warwickshire, such experienced campaigners at the 60-overs game, who are seeking to reach their fourth final in five years. They recently trounced Sussex in the Britannia Assurance county championship and Axa Life League and are playing in front of their own vocal supporters, the more paragon of whom will be expecting a rout.

Yet Sussex's extraordinary run has put the Warwickshire players on alert. They are guarding against complacency and a professional performance ought to be sufficient to keep in check a Sussex side high on confidence but low on resources.

Unsurprisingly, Sussex are likely to keep faith with the side that pulled off such an improbable win at Derby. For Warwickshire, Andy Moles hopes to take part, despite breaking a finger in the championship game against Sussex. If he plays, he will bat with a specially strengthened left glove; if not, Wagh will step in.

WARWICKSHIRE (probable) A J Moles, N M K Smith, D P Carter, D L Kemp, T L Parry, D R Brown, G Welch, A Fildes, P J Piper, A A Donald, G C Small

SUSSEX: A Greenfield, C W J Athey, R F Pace, M Newell, N P Taylor, N Hirst, P Morgan, V C Drake, P W Jarvis, A A Khan, M A Roberts

Age concern over Warne's balcony scene

THE Australians have had so much practice at winning, one would think that they knew how to celebrate properly. Not so, apparently. Shane Warne's post-match antics on the balcony at Trent Bridge gave even his fellow countrymen pause for thought.

"Shane Warne has made a goose of himself," Patrick Smith wrote in *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne. "His actions were those of a five-year-old boasting at marbles. His provocative and immature actions have sullied a fine victory by Australia. It was exhibitionism. It was arrogant. It was unbecoming of an Australian cricketer. With victory comes dignity. With Warne comes a lack of class. And to think that English counties are falling over themselves to sign him for next year."

Nasty business
There is still the matter of winning, of course, about which England can certainly

learn from these ockers. As the post-mortem into the loss of the Ashes continued, Nasser Hussain, England's leading run-scorer in the series, explained what is needed.

"We have to get a bit of nastiness into our game," he said on the *Today* programme on Radio 4 yesterday. "Everyone can work out how you can get nasty. When you play too much county cricket, it is difficult to get fired up. We have several individuals who played brilliantly, but the difference between the sides was definitely that Australia are harder than we are."

Once England have hardened up and won the Ashes, all they will have to do is learn the tricky matter of celebrating with dignity.

Italian job
As part of their build-up to the next ICC Trophy, Italy are making a two-week tour of England. They have brought with them 15 players and will

EXTRA



COVER

play 11 fixtures in strict accordance with International Cricket Council (ICC) rules. They are hoping that David Richards, the ICC chief executive, will play against them in the last fixture in Middlesex. "We would be surprised if we went home with a victory," one camp follower said.

Hard slog
Matthew Fleming, the Kent all-rounder and chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, landed himself in

hot water when he offered his own vision of the English game. Speaking in the *Kent Messenger*, he advocated each county signing two overseas players and the amalgamation of several clubs.

Somerset and Gloucestershire were a natural pairing, their facilities not being up to scratch, he claimed. Northamptonshire should merge with Leicestershire, Hampshire with Sussex. Kent, unsurprisingly, were spared.

His ideas prompted an angry mailbag. "I would suggest Kent amalgamate with Essex," wrote one reader, who did, however, embrace the proposal for more foreigners. "That's a great idea. Why not make it four and get the home-grown sloggers out of the game?" Fleming had the last word, slogging his way to a career-best 138 last week.

Total dominance
Sanath Jayasuriya, the Sri Lanka batsman, scored his 1,000th Test run of the year

yesterday, a considerable achievement bearing in mind that his first innings was not until March 8 and it was a duck. Previously, six years in Test cricket had brought him 830 runs. "I never thought I would see him do this sort of thing in Test cricket," Dav Whatmore, his former coach, said.

Running sore
Batting with a runner can be fraught with danger, but it presented no problem to Paul Prichard, the Essex captain, at Canterbury. With Darren Robinson and Tim Hodgson providing the legs, he remained at the crease 4½ hours after pulling a hamstring, though Prichard made their task easier by frequently thumping the ball to the boundary as he raised his score from 69 to 224.

Whether anyone has battled longer with a runner is a moot point. Graeme Fowler hobbled for a similar length of time while playing for Lancashire against Warwickshire at Southampton in 1982. After damaging a thigh, he took his score from 26 to 126.

Good sign
There is no doubting the longest innings played by an Englishman this summer. David Longman has spent three months faithfully dogging the England and Australia teams in an effort to secure their signatures on 99 prints of Sir Donald Bradman that are being sold for charity for £9,300 each.

He was a guest at a lunch arranged by Cornhill Insurance at Trent Bridge and won a cricket bat in a raffle. As it bore the autographs of the two teams, he acquired in the course of a couple of hours what he had spent the whole summer trying to collect. "I think he will be keeping the bat," a friend said. "He is taking it as a slight reward for his charitable efforts."

FATHER TIMES

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England collapse into state of madness

There is a psychological condition known as *folie à deux*, in which two people contribute to a joint madness, a shared insanity. It is as if each person becomes half of a single lunatic, as if madness becomes a closed feedback system, in which the excesses of the one make for the still greater excesses of the other.

Each person makes madness acceptable to the other, makes it possible, makes it desirable — and the result can be frightening, a travesty of a shared conspiracy of affection that makes life as a couple a possibility.

Sport ultimately provides a mirror to most things, perhaps to all things, which brings us to the extraordinary incident of England's second innings in the fifth Test last Sunday. It was one of the runniest things I have ever seen in sport. Its bizarre nature was obscured at the time by the importance, at least in sporting terms, of the events that followed: the surrender of an Ashes series, the question of the England captaincy. Now that due praise

has been handed to Australia and the usual outbreak of hysteria has overwhelmed defeated England, however, we can turn our minds back to that extraordinary couple of hours.

It seems that the entire England team had taken leave of its senses. More than that, they had actually gone temporarily mad. It looked like nothing less than a rare but dreadful psychological condition: *folie à deux*.

Perhaps we can let the captain off, because he got a shorter. Michael Atherton was out to a ball that could have got anybody. *Folie à deux*, then. Once the captain had gone, the whole lot of them went comprehensively barking. Life became a nightmare of flailing bats, clattering wickets and raised index fingers.

A cynical person with a taste for conspiracy theories might have a notion about cheap runs, which were there for the taking against seriously attacking fields. A chance to boost your personal average against the interests of the team. That theory, however, does not stand up. Most of the

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

batting made no sense in an individual context, still less in the context of the match.

Steve Davis, the snooker player, has always spoken wisely about the mental side of sport. You are entitled to miss a ball, he said. That happens and you must learn to accept it. The real problems come when you find yourself thinking wrong. We have seen Jimmy White taking on impossible pots because he

has been thinking wrong, just as we have seen Davis, when his certainty of touch and mind have deserted him, preferring po-faced defence to clear-cut invitations to attack.

This England batting performance was the most extraordinary case of thinking wrong. It was as if each player left his brain hanging up with his blazer. They acted like lemmings. Thorpe, 82, not out, was not an exception, he was just lucky.

There was a succession of ridiculous shots, ridiculous errors of judgment and of thought. The older Hollisake marooned on the back foot to the younger offering no stroke to a straight one. Hussain hooking like an over-lunched cricketer in a benefit match and getting out to a sloppy drive. Croft slopping a six and getting out next ball going for the repeat. Thorpe furling the tail — a single off the first ball of the over and then watching from the other end as Headley and Malcolm went within three balls.

There have been many examples of athletes that go completely barking. One need only think of Gazza in the 1991 FA Cup Final, wrecking his knee and his career with that wild challenge. Such madness can spread itself to a side. In football and in rugby, it usually takes the form of aggression. A team seeks only to carve its initial on its opponents, rather than to bother with the ball.

Or sometimes each member of a team gets infected by the need to blame everybody else. It is not the opposition they hate but each other. Fabrizio Ravanelli, raising his arms once again in his favourite crucifix position, exemplifies this approach, the keynote of the Middlesbrough style.

The same thing happens with actors. Madness takes the form of hysterical and unstoppable giggling. They call it corping, for such a shared madness is a temporary death of what makes you a professional. England's performance on Sunday evening was a kind of corping hysteria, drunk with shared insanity, they made themselves witting accomplices of their own murder. Australia danced on the grave.

The brilliant and the barmy

TW Time Machine

BBC1, 7.30pm

The latest planings from 33 years of *Tomorrow's World* include more bright ideas which did not make it as well as one or two which did. Suspicious that the show is often reluctant to let scientific reality get in the way of a good story are amply confirmed. To that, personal flying machines devised by the United States military. It was great fun watching people soaring through the air in what looked like a dustbin. Unhappily, however, the bin has been binned. Other abortive inventions recalled here include a solar-powered radio, centrally-heated socks and an electronic anti-perspirant. But *Tomorrow's World* is not just a catalogue of mishaps. Years ago it reported on a device for curing stammerers. We meet one of the biggest successes, a man who became a champion after dinner speaker.

The Day That Changed My Life

BBC2, 7.30pm

The message of Mike Fanning's story is you never know when trouble will hit you. He was running a successful import-export business, in his element selling casserole dishes and other glassware. Then the United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Yugoslavia, where all his capital was tied up. He says it was if somebody had put a big black hole underneath him and he was falling down it. His marriage broke up, he lost his home and he rarely sees his children. After sleeping rough for a time, he started the slow climb back by selling *The Big Issue* on the streets of Edinburgh. From that he bought a battered old van and set up a modest haulage business. He recalls the terrifying collapse of a secure life and his painful attempts to build a new one with the honesty that has pervaded all the films in this series.

One Foot in the Past

BBC2, 8.00pm

The public rarely gets a glimpse inside the Foreign and Commonwealth Office but this changes in September when, over one weekend, this outrageous Victorian palace, lately restored, will open its doors. Meanwhile we get a taste from Lucinda Lamborn. For someone who once



Revenge on a health club (BBC1, 10pm)

convinced us of the splendours of public lavatories, the FCO is a pushover. Dora Bryan is in celebratory mood, too, as she remembers those northern ballrooms, many now defunct, which provided escape and often romance for Lancashire's working people. The conservation conundrum of the west comes from Peterlee, the new town in Co Durham. The argument is over a concrete building-construction, designed by Victor Pasmore. Locals think it hideous and want to blow it up. English Heritage wants to list it.

Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance

BBC1, 10.00pm

If you have been sacked from your job or dumped by your partner there is no shortage of agencies eager, for a price, to help you to get your own back. The revenge business, it seems, has become big business. Thus a couple barred from a health club went to an outfit called the Get Back Agency, who organised an elaborate scam to make the club look stupid. Less subtle services on offer include anonymous phone calls and the sending of plastic extremities through the post. The avengers tend to claim that it is harmless fun which makes them feel better. Such propositions are challenged by the psychiatrist, Dr Raj Persaud. He sees a danger of anger and vindictiveness getting out of control. He also doubts whether taking revenge has the desired effect. Having seen James Cullen's worrying film, many will side with the doctor. Peter Waymark

ATHLETICS: AMERICAN SPRINTER'S VERSATILITY RECALLS LEWIS ERA OF DOMINATION

Jones proves fast out of the blocks

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN ZURICH

AS ONE Carl Lewis era ends, another begins. At the Weltklasse grand prix here this evening, Marion Jones lines up for her first races as a world champion with more expectation on her shoulders than any athlete since Lewis at his peak.

Craig Masback, who has been given the job of revitalising athletics in the United States, sees Jones as one of his biggest assets. "For me, she represents something incredible," Masback said. "We could be seeing the start of a new Carl Lewis era."

Lewis has spun out his retirement longer than Linford Christie and, although he did not compete at the world championships, he is giving some of the world's leading teenagers a chance to race him before he goes. The Carl Lewis Junior Development Race here includes Dwain Chambers, the Briton who broke the world junior 100 metres record three weeks ago.

Speculative comparisons with Lewis irritate Jones, but her coach, Trevor Graham, and manager, Charlie Wells, do little to dampen it down. Graham said Jones would be shooting for four gold medals at the next world championships, Wells said five.

Nobody has won more than three at one world championships, although Lewis took four at the 1984 Olympic Games. It is in the same events as Lewis — the 100 and 200 metres, long jump and 4x100 metres relay — that Jones hopes to rule the world.

Her fifth event would be the 4x400 metres relay.

Graham said yesterday that Jones would break 50 seconds for 400 metres once the training foundations had been laid. Wells reminded us that she had won the 100 metres in Athens and helped the 4x100 metres relay team to a national record on only 17 weeks' training.

Jones was an outstanding schools sprinter at 15, but took a basketball scholarship at the University of North Carolina. She would fit athletics around basketball when she could and qualified for the 1992 Olympics, although she declined to go because she thought she was too young. Success followed in basketball and she helped her university to win the NCAA title in 1994.

A long-lasting foot injury, suffered in 1995 while practising with the United States team for the World Student Games, prevented Jones from attempting to qualify for the Olympics in Atlanta and she began her sprint training this year belatedly, only when the basketball season was over. She resisted the temptation to turn professional, opting to give athletics a shot, and in June she won the 100 metres and long jump at the United States championships.

Already, she is reaping the rewards commercially. Aged 21 and 5ft 10in, she presents a striking combination of height and youth and her smooth running action is reminiscent of Lewis's. "She is wonderful to work with," Graham said.

"She never complains," Jones recorded 10.83sec in Athens. She puts no figure on how fast she thinks she is capable of, but, asked about Florence Griffith-Joyner's world record of 10.49sec, she said: "Hopefully, in a couple of years, I will be able to say I am the fastest woman who ever lived."

She will not lack opposition tonight in the 100 metres, she faces Gail Devers, the Olympic champion, and Gwen Torrence, the 1995 world champion, neither of whom were in the field in Athens.

Such a line-up is typical of Weltklasse, the richest grand prix by far — and the most competitive. Where better to decide the track distance runner of the year? The match-up between Daniel Komen, from Kenya, and Haile Gebrselassie, from Ethiopia, is eagerly awaited.

Christie called a press conference here after saying on television at the weekend, yet again, that he was retiring. Having spoken of retirement three times before and kept running, he must have known there would be those doubting him.

Listening to Christie here, one is left, for the first time, convinced. He would not race again, even for his club, he said. "No more competition... nothing at all... absolutely not... a lot of people may not believe it but it's official," Christie said. Those were his answers to the same question — was he really going? — put four different ways.



Jones includes the long jump among many talents

RUGBY LEAGUE

Brisbane lie in wait for play-off winners

THE winner of the European play-off between St Helens and Paris Saint-Germain tonight will have the dubious privilege of an away encounter against Brisbane Broncos in the world club championship quarter-finals in October (Christopher Irvine writes).

Despite six defeats in the group stages, St Helens survived on the basis that their cumulative losses were not as heavy as those of some other British clubs. Paris at least beat Perth Reds en route to winning European pool B and qualifying for the play-off.

Instead of a top four competition, the end-of-season Premiership will comprise all 12 Super League clubs. The top four will gain a bye to the quarter-finals and a home draw. There is a preliminary round for the remaining eight clubs on September 7, a week after the Super League ends.

Warrington Wolves have made two loan signings for the remainder of the season. David Murray, the New Zealand full back, has joined from Wigan Warriors, along with Matthew Bramall, a wing, from Dewsbury Rams.

RUGBY UNION

Tollett ready to sign for Harlequins

TULSEN TOLLETT, an Anglo-Australian, is lined up to partner Will Carling at centre for Harlequins in the new season six years after he last played rugby union at under-19 level in Australia. He had created a successful rugby league career and was an outside candidate to represent Great Britain against Australia in the autumn (Christopher Irvine writes).

Tollett, 24, born in Hastings of English parents and who grew up in Australia, played league for Penrith and Parramatta before he returned to England 18 months ago and signed for London Broncos, where he has proved adept at stand-off half, centre and full back. Harlequins saw his potential when the Broncos moved in with them in February at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Harlequins gave short-term contracts last year to Gary Connolly, of Wigan Warriors, and Robbie Paul, of Bradford Bulls, but are now interested only in league players who are prepared to make a permanent switch between the codes.

Gregor Townsend, the British Isles stand-off half, has promised Cardiff a decision tomorrow on whether he will join them for the new season. He faces a straight choice between Cardiff and Bath, who have also made him a six-figure offer.

Doddie Weir, 27, could be ready to take his place for Newcastle against Bath next weekend. The Scotland lock was expected to be sidelined until at least next year with a serious knee sustained against Mpumalanga on the Lions' tour of South Africa.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

MOURNIVAL

(a) A set of four axes, kings, queens, or knaves, in one hand. From the French *mornifol*, of obscure origin. The word also means "a slap in the face".

MUSSAL

(b) A torch or a torch-bearer. Mussal is the Anglo-Indian word, from the Urdu.

METRAN

(c) The head of the Abyssinian Church, or the abuna. The Ethiopic name. Hence *metranate* is the office or the province of the metran.

METEMPTOSIS

(d) The solar equation necessary to prevent the calendar new moons from happening a day too late. (The opposite of *apemptos*) From the Greek *meta* after + *emptos* the noun of action from *emiptein* to fall in or upon.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Rxb3+ 2 cxb3 Qxb3 3 Ke1 Nb3 leaves White without a decent defence, e.g. 4 Bc3 Qa3 5 Kf1 Qa1 checkmate.

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Medieval monks, multitudes of mammals

Brother Elric was having trouble with "unworthy thoughts." Later in the evening I fully expected to run into a Breasts anon. For the moment, it was time to concentrate on the going-on in medieval Shrewsbury. Habits on, tresses shaved... It was time for Cadfael (TV).

Where Brother Elric was still having trouble with unworthy thoughts, Brother Cadfael, who before he became a monk of the cloth was a man of the world, so knows about such things, tried to console him. "Brother, you use extravagant terms for feelings that are wholly human and natural. But Elric would not be cheered. He had gazed upon Mistress Perle's snood and was much taken with it. "I had thought I struggle, I can think of nothing else."

To be fair to the tortured Elric, Mistress Perle's charms did not

stop at a splendid snood. She was young, blonde, rich and recently widowed, which even in the 12th century was a fairly winning combination. As a result she was being vigorously pursued by most of the single men of Salop, although they might have shown a little less vigour had they known that she — with the help of Cadfael's herbal preparation — had given her dying husband a little help along the way.

Consumed with grief, she gifted the matrimonial home, to the abbey in exchange for a single white rose to be cut and delivered on the first of July. As fate would have it, it was Elric, who as one of Cadfael's ever-changing retinue of young undergardeners must have known how to make it to the second commercial break, who got the cutting and delivery job. Sure enough, within minutes, Elric was found dead by his lady's rose bush.

Had he been around 400 years later, Abbot Radulfus might have begun: "Alas, poor Elric, I knew him well..." But this was 11th-century, so he didn't. "From love to despair," he observed, "it is but a short step further to the most unlikely of temptations." It took me a couple of seconds to work out he was talking about suicide.

By the time I caught up, Cadfael had moved on again. There was no rain on Elric's habit and no blood on his hands. You don't mean...? Cadfael most certainly did. And look, here was a perfect imprint of the murderer's medieval boot. "A little warmer was a steady hand and we have him by the heel."

Derek Jacobi is one of the few actors in the world who can get away with lines like that. Others are less fortunate, particularly those whose job it is to deliver one line of medieval dialogue and then fade

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

into the grubby background again. "Cousin Judith — what is your opinion of this new wool?" looked to be a particular stinker until we discovered that its deliverer was actually the murderer. Served him right, then.

What Jacobi has realised and others have not is that a period dialogue is not always in verse and this is television not Stratford-upon-Avon. Less is more and in

one or two cases it is an awful lot less that is required. Mind you, it's not all the actors' fault if they've got confused. The series does have a curiously theatrical style to it, where the rather contrived medieval bustle stops while the principal actors deliver their lines and then starts again when they have finished.

Still, it's different, ambitious and Jacobi is in it — which makes three big pluses. If they could just make Hungary look a bit more like the Shropshire I know and love, it could be very good indeed.

If they could have just made breasts look a little less like... well, breasts, I might have enjoyed Meena Spadola's film, *Breasts* (Channel 4), a bit more. Unworthy thoughts, I'm quickly realised, were not going to be a problem after Spadola had persuaded 22 New York women to take their tops off and talk serious tits. Instead, the prevailing sense

was one of exclusion, akin to the feeling that every man has experienced when told that the apparently fascinating conversation that stopped the second he arrived was "girls' talk". This, I suspect, was "girls' television and, taking a wild guess, quite good girls' television at that, hampered only slightly by the fact that it was also American.

There were breasts in abundance and diversity. Big, small, old, young, pert, droopy, dishevelled, augmented: they were all there, including perhaps the saddest breasts I have ever seen, belonging to a deluded stripper who believed her surgical enhancement pair were God's gift to man. I can't even think of a joke to describe what they looked like, but I hoped her surgeon had paid his professional indemnity insurance.

At the other end of the scale was a dancer and former vice-president of her school's in-bits-fitty com-

mince (they impeached the president after she came back from college with a boob job). She was also our resident Lolita "when the lights are off and you catch me in the right mood". No, I'm sorry, I'm not even going to entertain an unworthy thought. Not with so many women watching.

A far less embarrassing time was to be spent in the company of David Attenborough, who for one night only appeared to have had borrowed the *J-Acoustic* format for *Wildlife on One* (BBC1). Piranha — pah! Bunch of softies, half of them are vegetarians, others are cowardly parasites who live by taking cowardly chunks out of other fishes' tails.

It's only the red-bellied variety you have to worry about, and then only if you're a great white egret chick without two brain cells to rub together. Bet that's gone down well on the set of the new James Bond film.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (55313)
 - 7.00am Breakfast News (7) (50771)
 - 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (7) (524868)
 - 9.20am Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (557805)
 - 9.50am The Changing role of grandparents (7) (524145)
 - 10.20am Put It to the Test (523141)
 - 10.45am Carol Cooper's Cooking with Confidence (121311)
 - 11.00am News (7) and weather (2067961)
 - 11.05am Due South (7) (4137892)
 - 11.50am Good Neighbours (582843)
 - 12.00am News (7) (4632981)
 - 12.05pm Wipeout (7) (772865)
 - 12.35pm Neighbours (7) (112343)
 - 1.00pm News (7) and weather (73039)
 - 1.30pm Regional News (5816752)
 - 1.40pm Columbus: Candidates for Crime (1973)
 - 1.45pm The murder of an election campaign manager (7) (412416)
 - 3.10pm Quinlan (7) (194484)
 - 4.00pm Popeye (202139)
 - 4.10pm The Thundercats (201822)
 - 4.30pm Morph TV with Tony Hart (250961)
 - 4.35pm Prince of Atlantis (599740)
 - 5.00pm Newswatch: Saving homeless dogs living on India's streets from almost certain death (7) (2021481)
 - 5.10pm Bright Sparks: A 16-year-old car designer (357239)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (7) (4137892)
 - 6.00pm News (7) and weather (73039)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (416)
 - 7.00pm Big Break: Stars of the Future Jim Davidson puts aspiring teenage snooker stars through their paces (7) (2394)
 - 7.30pm The TV Time Machine: The remarkable success of the "Stammer Jemmer" (7) (400)
 - 8.00pm The National Lottery Live Carol Smilie welcomes Michael Jackson's support group *Human Nature* (7) (234683)
 - 8.15pm Selection Box: Stars of the Future Celebrities pick their favourite moments from the Essex gig (7) (70868)
 - 8.50pm Points of View: Presented by Anne Robinson (7) (164364)
 - 9.00pm News (7) and weather (2329)
 - 9.20pm National Lottery Update (42368)
 - 9.30pm Men Behaving Badly: Rich and Fat The lads poke yet more fun at each other as Gary's secret stash of £33,000 is revealed (7) (53818)
 - 10.00pm Inside Story: Dial V for Vengeance Professionals dedicated to exacting revenge on their clients' good-for-nothing acquaintances outline a range of services, from quality pranks to more serious plots (7) (512400)
 - 10.45pm Match of the Day Gary Lineker: Introduces highlights of Manchester United v Southampton. Plus: all the goals and talking-points from tonight's other games in the top flight (7) (232970)
 - 12.00pm Blood Ties (1991) Hadley Yenton, Michelle Johnson and Jason London star in this vampire thriller about a family of bloodsuckers whose cursed and criminal acts gain them many enemies. Directed by Jim McBride (7) (72725)
 - 1.30am Weather (502771)

- BBC2**
- 8.00am Open University: Paris and the New Mathematics (254849) 6.25
 - 8.25am To the Moon (234082) 6.50 Regressing to Clarity (539074)
 - 7.15pm Sea Heat: Broadcast News (7 and signing) (504865)
 - 7.30pm Teletubbies (7) (451007) 7.55pm Postman Pat (7) (163565) 8.10pm Redd Foxx (7) (153402) 8.35pm Get Your Own Back (7) (577348) 9.05pm Spidey (7) (521855) 9.30pm Smart (7) (57481) 10.00pm Teletubbies (7) (721180)
 - 10.25pm Cricket: NatWest Trophy Live coverage of the opening session in the second semi-final of the 60-overs-a-side competition. Warwickshire take on the surprise semi-finalists Sussex (576177)
 - 12.45pm Prime Linn's Tricks of the Trade (7) (512448)
 - 12.55pm Today's Gourmet (7) (103457)
 - 1.25pm Cricket: NatWest Trophy Further coverage through to the close of play in the second semi-final of the 60-overs-a-side competition between Warwickshire and Sussex (576532)
 - NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to alteration or late running
 - 7.30pm The Day That Changed My Life: Down But Not Out An illustration of the bitter reality of homelessness through the eyes of an Edinburgh man (7) (462)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (7741503)
 - 9.25am Win, Lose or Draw (7) (529597)
 - 9.55pm Judge Judy (7) (535023)
 - 10.20pm News (7) (504571)
 - 10.25pm Regional News (7) (594404)
 - 10.30pm Eight Is Enough: Reunion (1987) Dick Van Patten and Mary Frann. Feature-length edition of the 1970s series about a couple with eight independent children. Directed by Henry Harris (510414)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (463814)
 - 12.30pm News (7) and weather (11932)
 - 12.55pm Shortland Street (1021023) 1.25pm Home and Away (7) (1406584) 1.50pm Side Effect (7) (518443) 2.40pm Murder, She Wrote (7) (502888)
 - 3.20pm News (7) (252518)
 - 3.30pm Tots TV (7) (583413) 3.40pm Ticket to Ride (540023) 3.50pm Carillon Time (594243)
 - 4.00pm Mooney and Mages (211043) 4.10pm Chatterbox Ponies (7) (250514) 4.25pm Art Attack (7) (2411752) 4.45pm Sabrina the Teenage Witch (7) (529282)
 - 5.10pm Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (257416)
 - 5.40pm News (7) and weather (75503)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (7) (427400)
 - 6.25pm HTV Tonight (303481)
 - 6.30pm The West Tonight (7) (684)
 - 7.00pm Emmerdale: Emma reveals all about her to her stunned parents (7) (3600)



Terrifying times for Maud (7.30pm)

- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
 - 10.30am Cartoon Time (2139771)
 - 10.40am David the Gnome (3719690)
 - 11.05pm Cartoon Time (468890)
 - 11.25pm BraveStarr (4591110)
 - 11.50pm Dinosaurs (593416)
 - 1.50pm Summer Crafts (588468)
 - 2.20pm Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (584023)
 - 5.10pm Home and Away (2657416)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (232)
 - 6.30pm The Channel 5 (684)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 10.30am Cartoon Time (2139771)
 - 10.40am David the Gnome (3719690)
 - 11.05pm Cartoon Time (468890)
 - 11.25pm BraveStarr (4591110)
 - 11.50pm Dinosaurs (593416)
 - 1.50pm Summer Crafts (588468)
 - 2.20pm Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (584023)
 - 5.10pm Home and Away (2657416)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (232)
 - 6.30pm The Channel 5 (684)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 10.30am Film: Sky West and Crooked (510414)
 - 1.50pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (1021023)
 - 1.55pm-2.00pm Film: Man About the House (158564)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (2657416)
 - 6.25pm-7.00pm Central News (752597)
 - 12.45pm Film: The Castle of Fu Manchu (594085)
 - 2.30pm In Focus (684727)
 - 3.15pm The Chart Show (4611172)
 - 4.00pm Central Jobfinder '97 (5062820)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 10.30am Film: Sky West and Crooked (510414)
 - 1.50pm Home and Away (5731394)
 - 1.55pm Emmerdale (1062888)
 - 1.50pm-2.00pm Film: Carry on Cabby (1665884)
 - 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (2657416)
 - 6.00pm-7.00pm Westcountry Live (53042)
 - As HTV West except:
 - 10.30am Cartoon Time (2139771)
 - 10.40am David the Gnome (3719690)
 - 11.05pm Cartoon Time (468890)
 - 11.25pm BraveStarr (4591110)
 - 11.50pm Dinosaurs (593416)
 - 1.50pm Summer Crafts (588468)
 - 2.20pm Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman (584023)
 - 5.10pm Home and Away (2657416)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (232)
 - 6.30pm The Channel 5 (684)

- STANLEY**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (7) (80223)
 - 7.00pm The Bigger Breakfast Incorporating 9.05pm Saved by the Bell: The New Class 9.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack 10.05pm Sister, Sister (7) 10.35pm The Crystal Maze (7) (7) 11.55pm The Bigger Breakfast (1580023)
 - 12.05pm California Dreams (7) (7377619)
 - 12.30pm My So-Called Life (7) (5747706)
 - 1.25pm Counter Culture (7) (5137868)
 - 1.35pm Bob, Sex of Battle (1947) with Edmund Gwern. The sentimental tale about a crusty old Scottish shepherd and his faithful sheepdog. Louis King directs (7) (4112139)
 - 3.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier Tuscan bean soup, spinach tart with red pesto, platters of fruit with mini gratin (7) (590)
 - 4.00pm Bewitched (7) (7) (577) 4.30pm Countdown (7) (5547569) 4.55pm Ricki Lake (7) (7) (7075752) 5.30pm The Rescue (7) (7) (591)
 - 6.00pm Snap! Showbiz (7) (574)
 - 6.30pm Roseanne (7) (7) (228)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (7) (389058)
 - 7.10pm Girls, Girls, Girls Young women in the 1950s talk about the importance of money to love (510706)
 - 8.00pm Brookside Rachel asks Christian for the truth. Will Jimmy's dream of becoming a teacher be thwarted by Oliver? (7) (4732)
 - 8.30pm Miles from Nowhere (1991) A made-for-television medical drama starring Rick Schroder as a promising athlete student who decides to nurse his brother after he falls into a coma. Also with James Farentino. Directed by Buzz Kulik (7) (4687461)
 - 10.15pm Space Cadets Sci-fi comedy quiz (7) (7) (53055)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a VideoCrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (7584752)
 - 7.30pm Havalakoo (5360042) 8.00pm The End of the World (2713313)
 - 8.30pm World of Mark Porter explains why we are all genetically unique (2713313)
 - 9.00pm Espresso (5338752) 10.00pm Exclusion (7) (5338752) 10.30pm Fights of Fantasy (7) (5338752)
 - 11.00pm Looze (2032329) 11.50pm Double Espresso (33552058) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (2716400) 12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (7583333)
 - 1.00pm 5 News Update (7) (22542619) 1.05pm Sunset Beach (7) (1570955) 2.00pm 5's Company (5087110)
 - 3.30pm The Toughest Man in the World (1984) with Mr. T. Dennis Dugan and John P. Navin Jr. A Vietnam veteran enters the "Toughest Man in the World" contest to save a centre for troubled kids. Directed by Dick Lowry (5056121)
 - 5.20pm 5's Company: Late Edition (50331139)
 - 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (5122819)
 - 6.00pm Move on Up (7) (5112232)
 - 6.30pm Family Affairs The lads return early from their holiday but they will not say why (7) (5305884)
 - 7.00pm Exclusive Showbiz gossip with Julia Bradbury and Imogen Edwards-Jones. Includes a report on whether Hollywood has simply run out of ideas (155568)
 - 7.30pm Small Miracles: Industrial Action An insight into the life of the bee and the important role it plays in the countryside (7) (503868)
 - 8.00pm Instant Gardens The horticultural guru William van Hage redesigns a typical back garden in Birmingham with the help of the Instant Gardens computer (4655067)
 - 8.30pm 5 News with Kirsty Young (7) (4650164)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (7) (80223)
 - 7.00pm The Bigger Breakfast Incorporating 9.05pm Saved by the Bell: The New Class 9.35pm The Secret World of Alex Mack 10.05pm Sister, Sister (7) 10.35pm The Crystal Maze (7) (7) 11.55pm The Bigger Breakfast (1580023)
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 - 10.15pm Space Cadets Sci-fi comedy quiz (7) (7) (53055)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.



A step back with Dora Bryn (8pm)

- 8.00pm One Foot in the Past Dora Bryn reminisces about the splendour of Lancashire's ballrooms and Lucinda Lambton is saved by the splendour of the newly refurbished Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Whitehall (7) (5884)
- 8.30pm Wildlife Showcase: Wolves of the Air Cameramen journey high into the French Alps to shoot footage of mammoth, little-known rodents closely related to the squirrel, which spend five months of the year in hibernation (7) (1619)
- 8.50pm In Cold Blood (22) Following the discovery of the Clutter's bodies, Detective Alvin Dewey heads the team to find the murderers. With Anthony Edwards, Sam Neil and Eric Roberts (7) (400)
- 10.25pm Video Nation Shorts (55886)
- 10.30pm Newswatch (7) (51077)
- 11.15pm Cricket: NatWest Trophy Highlights (583313)
- 12.05pm Weather (4256482)
- 12.10pm Animated 2 (393068)
- 12.30pm Learning Zone: Open University: Synthesis of a Drug (5443) 1.00pm Molecular Engineers (25207) 1.30pm The Catastrophic Greenhouse: A Surfeit of Carbon (35356) 2.00pm Summer Nights: Sporting Channel Collections (58337) 4.00pm Languages: España Viva (71733)



Terrifying times for Maud (7.30pm)

- 7.30pm Coronation Street Maud (Liz Bradley) is put through a frightening ordeal and Lesanne causes havoc (7) (588)
- 8.00pm The European Match Live Newcastle v Celtic. Zieghe Coverage of the Champions League, first-round, first-leg (7) Followed by Lottery Result (5619)
- 10.00pm News (7) and weather (29110)
- 10.30pm Regional News (7) (153597)
- 10.40pm In Suspicious Circumstances A double-bill of dramatised true crime mysteries (7) (326706)
- 11.40pm The Golden Four: International Athletics from Zurich Jim Rothenstein presents highlights from Zurich (189042)
- 12.40pm Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (513917)
- 1.10pm In the Shadow of a Killer (1992) with Scott Bakula, Lindsay Frost and Miguel Ferrer. Drama based on fact about a New York policeman whose beliefs cause him to come into conflict with both his superiors and the Mafia. Directed by Alan Metzger (591424)
- 2.55pm Jones and Jory (523298)
- 3.15pm Ft. Hungarian Grand Prix (591082)
- 4.10pm Cool Vibes (2582140)
- 4.30pm The Time, the Place (56558)
- 5.00pm Coronation Street (73530)
- 5.30pm News (33337)

SATELLITE AND CABLE



Harvey Keitel and Mehl Pflüger in Clocks (Movie Channel, 10pm)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (572619) 6.00pm Right and Wrong (7522) 12.00pm Days of Our Lives (17416) 12.00pm Oprah Winfrey (54203)
 - 1.00pm General (15044) 2.00pm Sally Jessy Raphael (58201) 3.00pm Jerry Jones (54203)
 - 4.00pm Oprah Winfrey (15955) 5.00pm Real TV: The Next Generation (5770) 6.00pm Real TV: The Next Generation (5770) 7.00pm The Simpsons (7700) 7.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 8.00pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 8.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 9.00pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 9.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 10.00pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 10.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 11.00pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 11.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 12.00pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252) 12.30pm M*A*S*H (7) (5252)
 - 6.00am Hi-Me (543207)
- SKY 2**
- 7.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 7.30pm Soccerboy (713465) 8.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 8.30pm Soccerboy (713465) 9.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 9.30pm Soccerboy (713465) 10.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 10.30pm Soccerboy (713465) 11.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 11.30pm Soccerboy (713465) 12.00pm Soccerboy (713465) 12.30pm Soccerboy (713465)
- SKY NEWS**
- 10.00am News coverage with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- SKY MOVIES**
- 10.00pm Champions: A Love Story (1979) 10.30pm Champions: A Love Story (1979) 11.00pm Champions: A Love Story (1979) 11.30pm Champions: A Love Story (1979) 12.00pm Champions: A Love Story (1979) 12.30pm Champions: A Love Story (1979)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 7.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 8.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 8.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 9.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 9.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 10.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 10.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 11.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 11.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 12.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 12.30pm Sports Centre (7435)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
- 7.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 7.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 8.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 8.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 9.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 9.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 10.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 10.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 11.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 11.30pm Sports Centre (7435) 12.00pm Sports Centre (7435) 12.30pm Sports Centre (7435)
- SKY SPORTS 3**
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- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00pm Equestrian (7722) 8.30pm Equestrian (7722)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 6.00pm Gold (1944) (503055) 8.00pm Gold (1944) (503055) 10.00pm Gold (1944) (503055) 12.00pm Gold (1944) (503055)
- TNT**
- 8.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 7.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 8.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 9.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 10.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 11.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943) 12.00pm Lando: Come Home (1943)
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- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00pm Equestrian (7722) 8.30pm Equestrian (7722)

- UK GOLD**
- 6.00pm Realtime (774515) 7.30pm Realtime (774515) 8.00pm Realtime (774515) 9.00pm Realtime (774515) 10.00pm Realtime (774515) 11.00pm Realtime (774515) 12.00pm Realtime (774515)
- GRANADA PLUS**
- 6.00pm The Box (514555) 7.00pm The Box (514555) 8.00pm The Box (514555) 9.00pm The Box (514555) 10.00pm The Box (514555) 11.00pm The Box (514555) 12.00pm The Box (514555)
- FOX KIDS NETWORK**
- 6.00am Dilly and His Friends (75503) 6.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 7.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 7.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 8.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 8.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 9.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 9.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 10.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 10.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 11.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 11.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 12.00pm Dilly and His Friends (75503) 12.30pm Dilly and His Friends (75503)

- CARTOON NETWORK**
- Non-stop cartoons from 9.00am to 9.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones.
- NICKELDEON**
- 6.00am Dr. Seuss (75752) 6.30pm The Cat in the Hat (75752) 7.00pm The



GOLF 38

Parnevik destined to miss out on Ryder Cup

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13 1997

SAILING 38

Close finish illuminates Fastnet Race



Shameful scenes mar semi-final

Angry players shove cricket into darkness

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): Essex, with two wickets in hand, need six runs to beat Glamorgan.

AMID bad blood and even worse light, the first of the NatWest Trophy semi-finals was adjourned in chaos and confusion at 8.10pm last night. Essex were six runs short of their target, with 6.1 overs remaining, when the umpires were given no option but to take the players off in the middle of an over from Glamorgan's Waqar Younis.

A match in which ill feeling was seldom far below the surface then brought disreputable scenes, with two England players, Mark Ilett and Robert Croft, pushing each other as they argued over the merits of the situation. An inquiry into the circumstances is inevitable.

The entire game had been combustible, though much of it was of compelling quality. Stuart Law often looks an angry young man, sometimes with justification. He has a grouse with the Australian selectors who decline to pick him and, yesterday, he had a spat with Darren Thomas for being careless enough to bowl him a bouncer. Law summar-



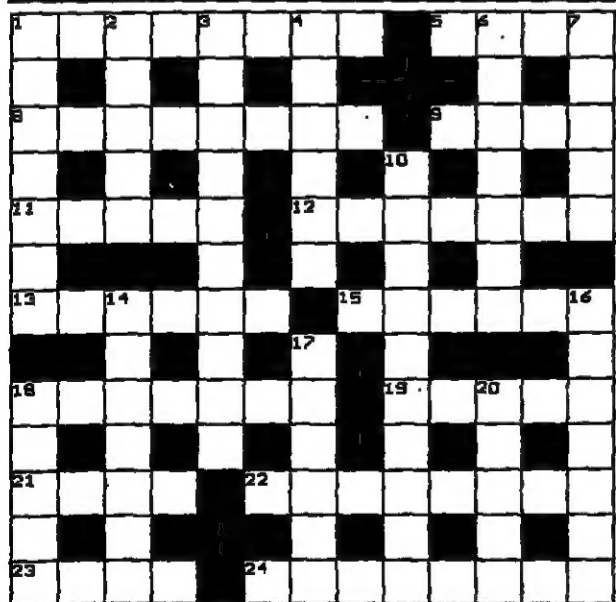
Stuart Law: dashing

CHELMSFORD SCOREBOARD

GLAMORGAN	ESSEX
S P James c Robinson b Grayson... 109	S P James c Robinson b Grayson... 109
H Morris c S G Law b Grayson... 45	H Morris c S G Law b Grayson... 45
A Dale c Cowen b Grayson... 26	A Dale c Cowen b Grayson... 26
M P Maynard run out... 26	M P Maynard run out... 26
P A Conner c Grayson b Rob... 56	P A Conner c Grayson b Rob... 56
R D B Croft run out... 14	R D B Croft run out... 14
G P Butcher not out... 18	G P Butcher not out... 18
TA D Thomas c S G Law b Cowen... 22	TA D Thomas c S G Law b Cowen... 22
SD Thomas c S G Law b Cowen... 22	SD Thomas c S G Law b Cowen... 22
Extras (lb 9, w 10, nb 5)... 25	Extras (lb 9, w 10, nb 5)... 25
Total (8 wickets, 80 overs)... 301	Total (8 wickets, 80 overs)... 301
Waqar Younis and S L Watkin did not bat	Waqar Younis and S L Watkin did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-115, 3-165, 4-211, 5-278, 6-281, 7-284, 8-301	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-115, 3-165, 4-211, 5-278, 6-281, 7-284, 8-301
BOWLING: Ilett 12-2-50-1; Cowen 12-0-52-2; Ilett 12-0-36-0; S G Law 6-4-37-0; Such 12-0-56-0; Grayson 9-4-51-2	BOWLING: Ilett 12-2-50-1; Cowen 12-0-52-2; Ilett 12-0-36-0; S G Law 6-4-37-0; Such 12-0-56-0; Grayson 9-4-51-2

ESSEX: D D J Robinson c Cowen b Watkin... 32

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1171

- ACROSS
- Protector (8)
 - Demonstrate (4)
 - Free French leader (2,6)
 - Courage, stone particles (4)
 - Stand for painting (5)
 - Valueless material (7)
 - Run-down; ignoble (6)
 - Assimilate; a statutory (6)
 - Decide; determination (7)
 - Paperwork (colloq.) (5)
 - Prejudice (4)
 - Member of gov't. clergy (8)
 - Depression (in knocked surface) (4)
 - Feeling gratitude (8)
- DOWN
- Atheistic (7)
 - Protection (esp. under the - of) (5)
 - Two plays in one show (6,4)
 - Glamorous attraction (6)
 - Brave woman (7)
 - Obscure; timepiece (5)
 - Duty debt (10)
 - Refrain (from) (7)
 - Shoot of climbing plant (7)
 - Die, fall (6)
 - Mad (with disease) (5)
 - Distinctive idea (art) (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1170

ACROSS: 1 Hooligan 9 Murder 10 Samuel 11 Wine 12 Cupidity 15 Deceit 17 Bury 18 Thomas 21 Becket 22 Astutism 23 Leer

DOWN: 1 Figure 2 Doodle 3 Short cut 4 Boss 5 Dimmed 6 Café 13 Parabola 14 Turgeon 16 Armour 17 Buckle 19 Hour 20 Sink

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1166

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Rack 3 Stagnant 5 Tibetan 10 Super 11 Concomitant 13 Nascent 15 Adhere 17 Precious few 20 Scoop 21 Summit 22 Spectral 23 Aged

DOWN: 1 Resident 2 Cabin 4 Tempt 5 Toss and turn 6 Amputee 7 Yurt 9 Trouble spot 12 New World 14 Suppose 16 Miasma 18 Fling 19 As is

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is J Midland, Cowley, Oxford.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is L Chappell, Duns, Berwickshire.

All flights subject to availability.

ly won the argument with Thomas to sweep Essex towards their second successive NatWest Trophy final and soon, surely, he will win his point with the Australians.

Law struck 90 from only 73 balls at his adoring, perspiring second home of Chelmsford and, after that, it seemed, even the notably nervy chasers of Essex would make light of a target of 302. Not so. Despite a heroic half-century from Ronnie Irani, playing with a torn rib cartilage, they had declined to 206 for eight when

the controversial end came. Glamorgan, buoyed by a century from Steve James, were entitled to believe they were on their way to a first Lord's final in 20 years but Law wasted no time in disabusing them. Waqar Younis was seen off after three overs costing 24 and Law had made 44 out of 77 when Thomas hit him full toss on the glove during the 12th over.

The Queenslander was incensed, and not a little pained. In swift succession he hurled down his bat and both gloves while offering Thomas the benefit of his opinions. Thomas waved a perfunctory apology but, having claimed in a newspaper preview that he looked forward to mixing it with Law, he did not look the picture of remorse.

Law took an age to compose himself but then treated Thomas to both barrels - venomous strokes accompanied by apparently vengeful words. When he holed out to long-off in the 24th over, he strode off pointing accusingly at another Glamorgan player who had evidently had something to say.

Nasser Hussain, granted a timely chance to display his leadership ability by a hamstring injury to Paul Prichard, opted to bowl first and must have been congratulating himself when Hugh Morris squirted the tenth ball of the innings to Law at gully. Once the rain had cleared, though, so did the approach of the Welsh and the second wicket added 102 in 29 overs.

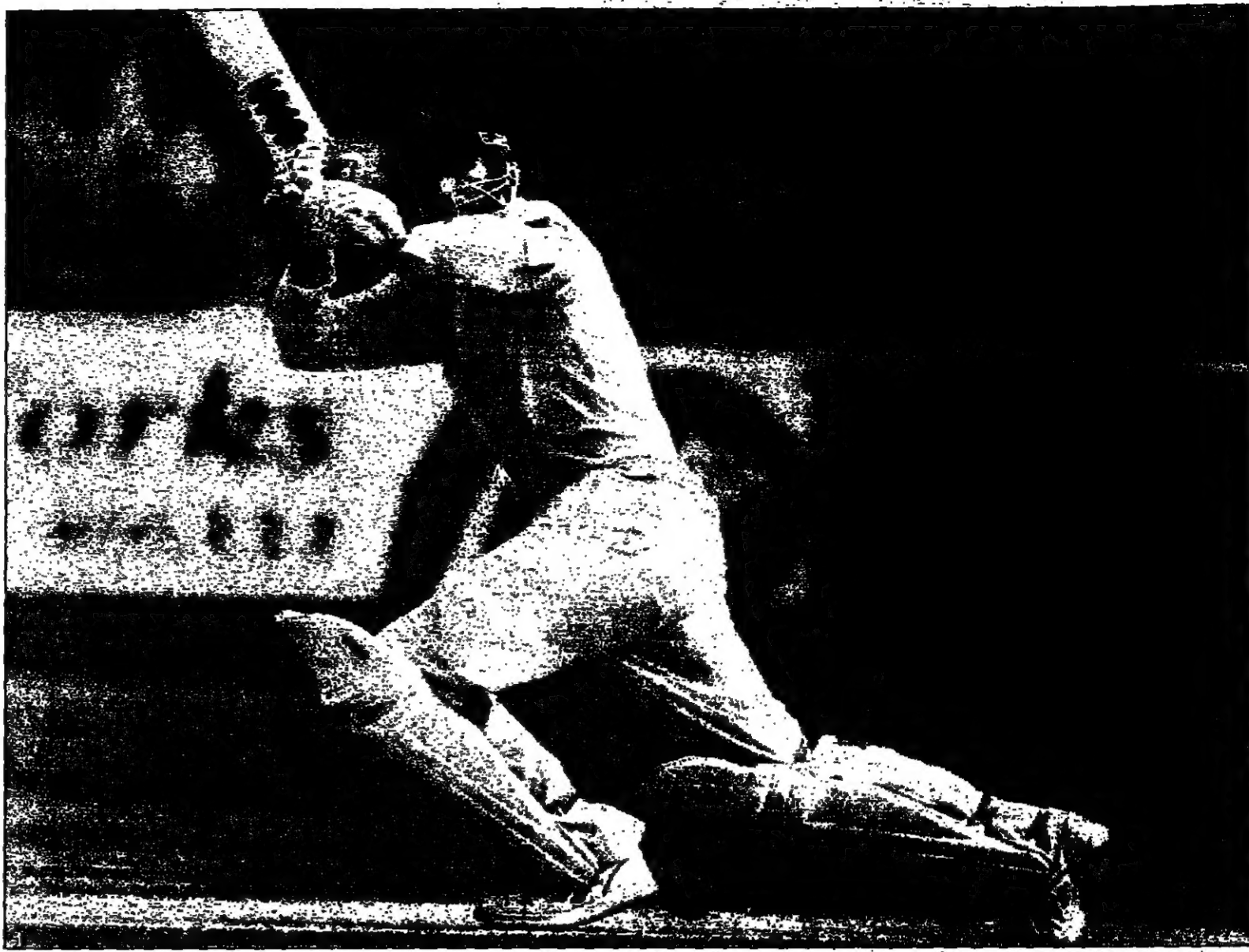
James, who heads the first-class managers to make hundreds without playing a memorable shot, simply working the ball into the gaps. His century here contained only five fours. Only time and opportunity will tell if his technique can thrive at higher level but he can hardly make a stronger claim.

Essex's outcricket was below par, both Dale and Cottee being expensively dropped, and when Irani was forced off midway through his tenth over, the Welsh contingent burst into *Land of my Fathers*. They were still more euphoric when the last ten overs produced 82 runs, but it proved premature.

After 20 overs of the reply, Law and Darren Robinson, a positive but sensible partner, had rushed to 122. Other than a run-out chance, squandered by Shaw, Glamorgan did not sniff success until Law perished, aiming for a second straight six off Butcher.

When the estimable Watkin rallied from early punishment to dismiss Hussain and Robinson in consecutive overs, Essex wobbled. They have been here before, losing big games when it seemed easier to win, but Grayson, a thoroughly sound cricketer, joined Irani, who had been given a painkilling injection, in a catnapping stand of 60.

ITC details, page 38
Jayasuriya shines, page 41
Line and Length, page 41
Simon Barnes, page 42



James, Glamorgan's century-maker, clips the ball to mid-wicket during his well-paced innings. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

Dalglish savours striking difference

BY OLIVER HOIT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY told Kenny Dalglish that today was Alan Shearer's birthday and he shrugged his shoulders. It was suggested that maybe Dalglish would like to win Newcastle United's European Cup preliminary round match against Croatia Zagreb to night for his stricken striker and he shot back a contemptuous stare. He was asked when Shearer might be fit again. "He won't be playing tomorrow night," he said.

The continuing obsession with the minutiae of Shearer's injury has already exhausted Dalglish's limited fund of patience as he tries to coax Newcastle and their supporters into life without the England striker for a large part of the season. Yesterday, at a press conference at the club's picturesque training ground on the outskirts of Durham,

he found the perfect escape route.

In the absence of Shearer and the recently-departed Les Ferdinand, the goalscoring burden has been placed at the unpredictable feet of Faustino Asprilla, the maverick Colombian who it was widely assumed would be one of the first casualties of the Dalglish reign at St James' Park.

Instead, Asprilla has begun to show signs of finding the form that made him such a feared striker with Parma in Serie A and prompted Kevin Keegan to buy him towards the end of the 1995-96 season in a doomed attempt to clinch the FA Carling Premiership title.

He scored both Newcastle's goals - one a thunderous volley after a clever header from Albert - in the 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday and Dalglish left his listeners in little doubt yesterday that he believes

Asprilla is a more than capable deputy for his talismanic No 9.

"If the preconception was that he was not my type of player," Dalglish said, "that is because you have been misinformed. I never had any preconceived ideas about the

PROBABLE TEAMS

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-4-1-1): S. Given - A. Paterson, P. Albert, S. Pearce - D. Bailey, R. Lee, S. Watson, T. Kewell, K. Gillespie - J. D. Tomkinson - F. Asprilla.

Sheffield Wednesday (3-4-1-2): D. Leslie - S. Mendenhall, G. Jago, D. Smith - D. Davis, S. Maric, K. J. Jago, J. Kewell - R. P. Freeman - M. Viduka, I. Chelimeric.

was, we would want him here.

The funny thing about him is that he always looks shattered. Even if he has been on for five minutes and he is just walking around, he looks shattered. He was getting the team picture done yesterday and he looked shattered. Then, suddenly, he just bursts into action.

Dalglish admitted that Newcastle, who will revert to playing in the UEFA Cup if they lose the two-legged tie to the Croatians, who used to be called Dinamo Zagreb, "will either have to play very well or be very lucky, or hopefully both", to progress into the Champions' League.

Zagreb, who have the former Barcelona and Real Madrid midfielder, Robert Prosinecki, in their ranks, have won the Croatian league for the past two seasons, last year by 21 points, and warmed up for the match tonight with a 6-2 thrashing of Varazdin on

Saturday. In the previous round, they beat Partizan Belgrade 5-1 on aggregate.

Their star striker, Igor Cvitanovic, said his team had been upset over claims that Dalglish had said he had never heard of Croatia Zagreb. "English teams are full of arrogant and cold people," he said. "They are not interested in anybody but themselves. They always think they are the greatest."

Dalglish, however, emphasised that he has the utmost respect for Newcastle's opponents, especially as his own record as a manager in Europe has been restricted to Blackburn Rovers' defeat by Heidenreich and Newcastle's loss to AS Monaco last season. "I have not had the same success in Europe as I did when I was a player," Dalglish said, "but this is not about me. It is about the players."

United prepare, page 40

Barnes spurns Redknapp

BY DAVID MADDOCK

JOHN BARNES agreed to join Newcastle United on a free transfer last night, only hours after shaking hands on a deal with Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager.

The Liverpool midfielder player travelled to London for talks with Redknapp yesterday and quickly agreed a contract. It seems, however, that Barnes suffered a moment of uncertainty and made what has amounted to an embarrassing U-turn.

Redknapp was proclaiming that Barnes was his man early in the evening and he added, almost with uncertainty, that he would be very upset should the player change his mind.

"I don't think he will, because he's one of the most

honest professionals around," he said. By then, though, Barnes had already talked to Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager and the man who took him to Anfield. The lure of European football and the chance to chase top honours at St James' Park appears to have persuaded him to change his mind.

Barnes will travel to Newcastle today for a medical and will join the North-East club on a two-year contract worth more than £1.5 million. The free transfer ends a ten-year association with Liverpool, where the 33-year-old made more than 400 appearances for the club after Dalglish, then manager at Anfield, paid Watford £900,000 for him in 1987.

If, as expected, the deal is

completed before the end of the week, Barnes will be eligible to play for Newcastle in the Champions' League, should they qualify by beating Croatia Zagreb over a two-leg preliminary round contest.

David Platt turned down a move to Middlesbrough last night, but has not ruled out leaving Arsenal. The England midfielder player had been tempted by a move to the Riverside Stadium to join up with Paul Merson, his former team-mate, but decided against it.

Platt said: "I have decided that it would not be the right career move for me at this point in time. I am grateful to Arsenal for their understanding - Arsene Wenger [the manager] has told me that he wants me to stay at the club."

Clubs united on issue of sin

David Hands, rugby correspondent, on radical plans for the new domestic season

English rugby union's new-found accord are one thing, but the game's administrative capabilities are quite another. The Allied Dunbar Premiership launched its inaugural season at Twickenham yesterday with a commitment to the introduction of the sin-bin, without any such regulation having been formulated or approved.

Still, the pace of change may yet be sufficient for the sin-bin to be in place by August 23, the first weekend of competition for England's leading 24 clubs. The feeling among refereeing officials is that its implementation would be relatively straightforward, but that, perhaps, referees could be given as much notice as possible.

If the Rugby Football Union (RFU) accepts the pro-

posed competition regulations, then games in the Premiership first and second divisions will have ten-minute half-time intervals, home and away play-offs to determine promotion and relegation and the ten-minute sin-bin for persistent technical infringement. The intention, after a meeting last week between club directors and referees, is to punish the professional foul.

"We want to stop players who seek to prevent a try by killing the ball, or wrapping it up in the tackle, or by going outside," Donald Kerr, chairman of the English Rugby Partnership - the organisers of competition for the leading 24 clubs - said. "We have

listened to players, we have talked to the RFU and we see no reason why it should not be available to referees by the start of the Premiership."

At present, however, there is only a draft regulation that has gone to Nick Bunting, the RFU referees development officer, who is on holiday, and no meeting of the RFU management board is scheduled until August 29.

There was no mistaking the enthusiasm, though, of club executives for the season that lies ahead. After the politics that have bedevilled the sport, they seek to present the English club game in the best possible light and Allied Dunbar, the insurance company,

will plough £12 million into the sport over the next three years.

"Today is about taking the game on to its next stage... about giving it the resources to go forward into the next century," Steve Melcher, the Allied Dunbar chief executive, said.

The new Premiership champions will receive £66,000 and the runners-up £30,000, but new regulations also allow disciplinary proceedings against clubs that avoid the proper channels when approaching players.

To avoid clashes of interest between club and country, clubs can postpone matches if they lose five or more players for international duty, but must give "ten-days' notice, which will create problems if national selectors delay the nomination of their squads."

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